

FREE BOOKS SCHOOLS

TODAY'S TOKEN page 24

How I found my uncle's grave on the net

page 3

TOMORROW IN KATE WINSLET

Sex, drugs and weight loss

THE SATURDAY TIMES

The **SIMPSONS** new comic strip

30

EVERY WEEKDAY

More turmoil at the Express, media times page 37

Mandelson offered role in S Africa



Mandelson: his friends are urging him to take the job

By ROLAND WATSON
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PETER Mandelson was on course last night to make a dramatic return to his role as election strategist by travelling to South Africa and working for a smooth transition to Nelson Mandela's successor.

The job would see the former Trade Secretary acting as special adviser to the African National Congress, helping ensure the party's return to power and the election of Thabo Mbeki as president.

Mr Mandelson's name was mentioned for the role when Tony Blair met Mr Mbeki in Pretoria during

his three-day trip to South Africa earlier this month. The MP for Harlepool, who resigned from the Cabinet before Christmas over his £373,000 home loan from Geoffrey Robinson, the former Paymaster General, is being strongly urged by some friends to take the job. Although he is interested in the role, Mr Mandelson has yet to commit himself to it.

One downside is that the three-month election campaign in South Africa clashes with a series of critical elections in Britain. A firm date will be set next month for the South African poll, but it is expected to be in May, or June at the latest. At that

time, Labour will be involved in campaigns for the Scottish parliament, Welsh assembly, local elections in large parts of the country and the European parliament.

Labour chiefs anxious to give Mr Mandelson a quiet rehabilitation away from the limelight are at pains to keep him at arms-length from the public face of the party's campaign. But as the man who masterminded the tactics for Labour's May 1997 General Election landslide, he will inevitably be called upon in an advisory role.

Another downside is that spending eight weeks or more in the South African sun would not square with

what some of his friends see as Mr Mandelson's best route back to office, namely toiling away on the "rubber chicken circuit" as a backbench MP for Harlepool.

The offer of the South African job dates back to before Christmas when political staff from the South African Embassy in London visited Downing Street to talk about the possibility. Mr Blair, who wants to foster closer links with the ANC as a way of developing "third way" policies, encouraged the idea.

Following his pre-Christmas resignation and given his background in election campaigning, Mr Mandelson's name became the obvious

front-runner. Despite his reservations, senior Labour figures expect him to spend at least part of the campaign for South Africa's second democratic election in Cape Town. Mr Mandelson's ties with Africa go back to when he spent a year in Tanzania before going to Oxford.

Labour MPs would almost certainly welcome the post. They were angered by Mr Blair's decision to keep Mr Mandelson on as his "personal representative" in talks with Gerhard Schröder's German administration and believe Mr Mandelson should serve a period of "quarantine" before trying to stage a political comeback. A purely political

role, particularly working for such a long-cherished left-wing cause as the ANC, would be likely to go down favourably on Labour's backbenches. Earlier this week Mr Mandelson's involvement in the Anglo-German talks was downgraded to head off a rebellion by Labour MPs.

In a separate development, the cross-party standards and privileges committee is expected to hear from the new Parliamentary Commissioner Elizabeth Firkkin next month on whether she believes Mr Mandelson broke parliamentary rules by failing to declare his loan from Mr Robinson in the MPs' register of interests.

GPs defy Dobson's Viagra rationing

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

DOCTORS were yesterday urged to prescribe Viagra free over the next six weeks before the Government can rationing of the anti-impotence drug.

Defiance of Frank Dobson's intention to curtail prescriptions from March, the Medical Association of potent men going to P should be able to re-anti-impotence pill HS.

Mr Dobson announced his plan on the day that the BMA had issued a warning it would instruct members to start prescribing the drug if no guidelines were received from the Health Department.

He was advised on November 9 by the Senior Medical Advisory Committee that there were no medical reasons why the drug could not be prescribed on the NHS by GPs.

He was also advised by the committee to consider the priority that should be given to all methods of treating the condition relative to treatments for other conditions. It took Mr Dobson two and a half months to do this and he decided that the only way out is to ration treatment.

His decision was solely based on cost. "The cost of treating impotence could escalate," he said. "We have to find a sensible balance between treating men with a distressing condition and protecting the resources of the NHS to deal with other patients - for example, people with cancer, heart disease and mental health problems."

Doctors see this as an unwarranted intrusion into its duty to decide what treatment is best for a patient. During the six weeks that the Government plan is open for consultation the BMA is to encourage doctors to prescribe the pill freely on the NHS because there is no legal ban that can stop them doing so.

These categories are likely to cover only about 15 per cent of the two million men who suffer from erectile dysfunction. Others who are confirmed by a consultant to be suffering "severe distress" as a result of their impotence would also qualify for one NHS Viagra pill a week.

Anyone else with the condition could get a prescription from his GP for Viagra, but would then have to buy the pill privately from the chemist for about £6 each.

Mr Dobson announced his plan on the day that the BMA had issued a warning it would instruct members to start prescribing the drug if no guidelines were received from the Health Department.

He was advised on November 9 by the Senior Medical Advisory Committee that there were no medical reasons why the drug could not be prescribed on the NHS by GPs.

He was also advised by the committee to consider the priority that should be given to all methods of treating the condition relative to treatments for other conditions. It took Mr Dobson two and a half months to do this and he decided that the only way out is to ration treatment.

His decision was solely based on cost. "The cost of treating impotence could escalate," he said. "We have to find a sensible balance between treating men with a distressing condition and protecting the resources of the NHS to deal with other patients - for example, people with cancer, heart disease and mental health problems."

Doctors see this as an unwarranted intrusion into its duty to decide what treatment is best for a patient. During the six weeks that the Government plan is open for consultation the BMA is to encourage doctors to prescribe the pill freely on the NHS because there is no legal ban that can stop them doing so.



Gurkhas searching cliffs above Hastings yesterday on the third day of the hunt for the missing ten-year-olds, Lisa Hoodless and Charlene Lunnon

Gurkhas join hunt for lost girls

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

FIFTY Gurkhas joined the search in Hastings for the missing ten-year-olds Lisa Hoodless and Charlene Lunnon yesterday, as police said that there had been four unconfirmed sightings of the girls in London since they disappeared on Tuesday.

The Gurkhas joined 300 police and 50 military police on the third day of the operation as the hunt spread from Hastings to open ground, woodlands and cliff tops in the surrounding Sussex countryside.

Officers from the Metropolitan Police were checking three unsubstantiated sightings in Plumstead, southeast London - two on trains and one on a bus - and one near the crematorium in Ruislip, northwest London, where the ashes of Charlene's mother, who died two years ago, were interred.

Parents' anger, page 5

Minister to meet IRA families

Victims of the IRA are outraged by the Northern Ireland Security Minister's plan to meet the families of eight IRA men who were killed in an SAS ambush as they were driving a mechanical digger carrying a 200lb bomb at the RUC station in Loughall in 1987.

Strike miners attack police

Striking coalminers hijacked lorries and tore through barricades in the central town of Costesme as police tried to block their march to the Romanian capital. At one stage they held policemen hostage. Closure of the mines is recommended by the World Bank and the IMF.

Friends angered by Monet queue

Temper flared outside Burlington House as hundreds of Friends of the Royal Academy queued for up to two hours to see the Monet exhibition preview. When the exhibition opens to the public tomorrow tickets will be timed to avoid congestion, but no such system was in place for the preview.

Robertson joins Laura Ashley

The Rev Pat Robertson, the religious broadcaster who was once a contender for the Republican presidential nomination, has joined the board of Laura Ashley, which reported a sharp fall in Christmas sales and has just lost another chief executive.

Four killed in mid-air crash over school

By PETER FOSTER

A VILLAGE primary school came within a split-second of disaster yesterday after an RAF Tornado jet collided in mid-air with a Cessna light aircraft leaving four people dead.

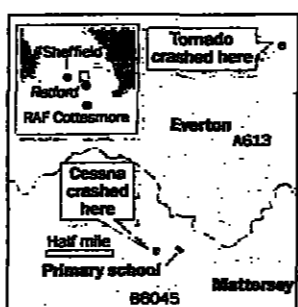
Children from Mattersey school, near Workson, north Nottinghamshire, were sitting at morning lessons when they heard a loud explosion shortly before 11.30. Seconds later, according to witnesses, debris from the light aircraft rained down over nearby fields, some pieces landing 200 yards from the school.

Less than a minute later in the village of Everton, three miles away, people reported another explosion as the Tornado GRI bomber came down half a mile from homes.

The £17 million Tornado, with two pilots on board - an RAF instructor and an Italian Air Force trainee - has manually operated ejector seats.

One of the crew, the Italian, succeeded in ejecting before impact with the Cessna, but he did not survive.

Wing Commander Crispin Edmunds, acting station commander at RAF Cottesmore in Rutland, from where the Tornado had taken off, said that



the jet had been on a routine flight. RAF Cottesmore is the home of the Tri-National Tornado Establishment, formed in 1979 to train pilots and navigators from the RAF, and the German and Italian air forces. Families of the victims were being contacted last night. No names had been released.

David Learmonth, editor of Flight International, claimed that the system for preventing mid-air crashes over much of Britain was primitive. Routes in and out of airports are covered by air traffic control systems but in uncontrolled air space, mainly over rural areas, light planes flying above 1,000ft can go where they like. "Around half of all UK air space is completely uncontrolled," he said.

Police were yesterday begin-

ning an investigation as the Air Accident Investigation Branch began sifting through wreckage. They confirmed that the Cessna had taken off from a private airfield at Gamston, near Retford, with two men on board.

Yesterday parents, some in tears, collected their children from Mattersey school and told of their relief after hearing how close it had been to disaster. Teresa Mapplebeck, 27, who has a four-year-old daughter, Stephanie, there said: "I heard a crack and saw the plane falling from the sky. I couldn't believe what I was seeing. I dialled 999 then rang my friend, I was in a panic."

Mrs Mapplebeck then scooped up her son Liam, two, and drove to Mattersey. "I thought it had come down on top of the school. When I got there I saw debris on the road. There was a map which I think came from the plane. People were crying."

Rob Morley, collecting his daughter, Samantha, eight, and son, Dan, six, said: "I was driving with the radio on when I heard. I did not have a number for the school but telephoned a friend who told me how close they had all come."

Samantha said: "We heard this bang, and went rushing to the windows. We saw the man parachuting down."

Douglas Scrivner, of Mattersey, said: "I saw a little plane flying around then I saw a jet which came out of nowhere. It went straight through the middle of the light aircraft. Those on board would have had no chance."

Linda Watkinson, 48, who lives 500 yards from the Everton crash, watched the RAF plane spiral to the ground.

TV & RADIO	46-47
WEATHER	24
CROSSWORDS	24-48
LETTERS	21
OBITUARIES	23
SIMON JENKINS	20
ARTS	32-35
CHESS & BRIDGE	43
COURT & SOCIAL	22
EDUCATION	41
MEDIA	36-39
BUSINESS	25-29

Buying The Times overseas
Australia \$25.00, Belgium 10.00, Canada \$25.00, Denmark 22.00, Finland 20.00, France 17.00, Germany 14.00, Greece 12.00, Hong Kong 25.00, Italy 15.00, Japan 25.00, Korea 25.00, Luxembourg 12.00, Malaysia 25.00, Mexico 25.00, Netherlands 12.00, New Zealand 25.00, Norway 12.00, Portugal 12.00, Singapore 25.00, Spain 12.00, Sweden 12.00, Switzerland 12.00, Taiwan 25.00, Thailand 25.00, USA \$25.00, UK 12.00, West Germany 12.00, Yugoslavia 25.00, Zaire 25.00.



9 770140 046251



"No matter how much Viagra I have, I still don't find the Lib Dems sexy"

هكذا من النحل

Total recall? Here is the talking equivalent of invisible ink

Britain's new Trade and Industry supremo has an amazing ability. Stephen Byers is the talking equivalent of invisible ink. Within seconds of his speaking you cannot recall a word he has said: he simply wipes himself from your consciousness.

I was at Westminster early yesterday for Questions to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. It was the dispatch box debut of Peter Mandelson's replacement. I needed to note Mr Byers's answers.

It was spooky. I couldn't. Time and again I tried to write down what Byers was saying or had just said. Time and again, all recollection fled.

Byers rose. My mind began to wander. I pinched myself and gripped a pen, forcing myself to listen. "I would like to thank my hon friend," droned Byers to Stephen Ladyman (Lab, S Thamel) "for his warm words of welcome..."

Attention began to slip. I wrestled with oblivion but an unseen force was loosening pen from fingers. I wrenched

attention back. "... We can do more..." - and my mind blanked. Short-term memory was wiped.

So total is Stephen Byers's self-wipe function that it may be some form of hypnosis, a horrifying new technique in mind-control now learnt by new Labour. The fellow speaks and - *fwat* - it's gone, snatched from recollection by the some mysterious force.

And new Labour ministers can now do this. They leave no mental trace. Stephen Byers is the typewriter with no

ribbon, the leadless pencil, the printer without ink. "External financing limits..." regime in place... high quality service at affordable prices... "Byers bleated - and I blanked. The rest escapes me."

Byers is neither big nor small. His hair was grey. His accent was neutral. His suit was grey. His tie was grey. He

looks like the assistant accountant to a large dental practice in Northampton. He was wearing glasses - or was he? Dammit, that's gone too.

When I managed to re-engage consciousness, he was speaking again, to George Turner (Lab, NW Norfolk). "Steps have been taken... I've no doubt at all... steps

have been taken... no conflict... no doubt... no conflict... only fragments survive, shards of cliché.

But Byers's was not the only debut at Industry Questions. Michael Wills, the new Minister for small business, was at the dispatch box for the first time. He will go far. Mr Wills takes self-wipe to new levels. I cannot even remember seeing him in the Chamber before.

And Hansard's computer-memory is susceptible to his magnetic powers of erasure. Wills seems to have wiped

most of his previous interventions from the record, which notes only eight utterances in 20 months.

On yesterday's showing these are the very models of a modern Labour minister. Replying to a question about abolishing red tape from Brian Cotter (Lib-Dem, Weston Super-Mare), Mr... er... crickey, something is trying to pluck the name from my memory... replied "Madam Speaker, this Government is committed, we are committed, we are indeed committed..." What

devilish cunning. We remember that they are committed, very committed indeed - but to what? Ah, that we cannot quite recall.

Answering, minutes later, on the Millennium Experience, the Minister Janet Anderson unwittingly hinted at a chilling comparison with the New Labour Experience. In the "Mind" zone of the Dome, she said, "the public will be able to interact with advanced, intelligent robots".

To interact with Mr Byers is to do likewise.

IRA victims attack plan to meet relatives

BY MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

VICTIMS of IRA atrocities expressed outrage last night at a minister's decision to meet relatives of an IRA unit killed by the SAS while attacking a Co Armagh police station.

Adam Ingram, the Northern Ireland Security Minister, has agreed to meet the families of eight IRA men ambushed as they were driving a mechanical digger carrying a 200lb bomb at the RUC station in Loughall in 1987.

The SAS was forewarned of the attack and 40 soldiers took part in the ambush which effectively wiped out the IRA's East Tyrone brigade. A passer-by died in the crossfire. The IRA detonated the bomb

during the gunfight, and it destroyed part of the station.

"It's a despicable act," said Brian McConnell, secretary of the group Families Acting for Innocent Relatives which represents victims of IRA violence in Co Armagh. His members plan to picket the meeting at Stormont on Monday.

"By no stretch of the imagination can these people be described as victims. These people, or their relatives, took away lives and the fact the Government is now consulting with them adds insult to injury. We feel Adam Ingram is dancing on the graves of the real victims by giving credence to these killers. What's

right is now wrong in this country."

Andrew Mackay, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, called Mr Ingram's decision "disgraceful, outrageous and insulting to all those killed by the IRA" and urged him to cancel the meeting.

Mr Ingram has special responsibility for the victims of the Troubles, and for taking forward the recommendations of a report on them produced by Sir Kenneth Bloomfield, former head of Northern Ireland's Civil Service.

The Northern Ireland Office said: "Mr Ingram has wanted the fullest possible consultation on Sir Kenneth's report. He has met a wide range of groups and individuals who describe themselves as victims. In the majority of cases these meetings have been entirely private. He will be in listening mode when he meets the Loughall Truth and Justice Campaign."

The Tories have called a Commons debate next Wednesday on the punishment beatings by loyalist and republican paramilitary groups. They will demand that the release of terrorist prisoners be halted unless the beatings and shootings stop.



The SAS killed eight IRA men in the ambush in 1987



Even the soldiers are happy to see the demise of Fort White Rock. One who watched yesterday's demolition said troops there were on a hard routine: everything had to be bombproof to withstand the constant mortar attacks by the IRA, who saw it as a symbol of British oppression

Barracks demolished in name of peace

FORT WHITE ROCK, the massive army base that has dominated the skyline of republican West Belfast for 20 years, lay in rubble last night. After resisting countless IRA attempts to destroy it, the imposing barracks, with its 50ft watchtowers and bombproof walls, is being torn down as part of government efforts to bolster the Ulster peace process.

Perched high above the city at the

foot of the Black Mountain, Fort White Rock became one of Belfast's best-known landmarks and the object of bitter republican hatred. At the height of the Troubles it was home to thousands of soldiers and the target of constant IRA attacks.

Now its barricades and firing ranges are all but gone. When the demolition work is complete in a few months' time, the only building left will be the

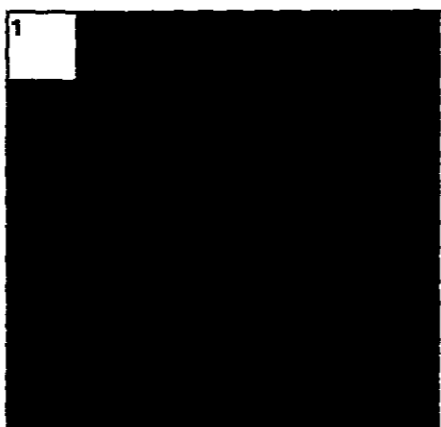
original candle factory, which was converted into a gymnasium when the troops moved in.

Republicans who saw the base as a symbol of British oppression said its demise was long overdue. "The observation posts looked right out into the surrounding housing estates and kept people constantly under surveillance," Marie Moore, a Sinn Féin councillor, said. "We now hope the land will be

given back to the people in the area to have an industrial estate and maybe even a tourist attraction which would take in the Black Mountain."

Some of the soldiers based there were no less happy to see Fort White Rock go. "Soldiers here were on a hard routine," said one who watched the demolition. "Everything is bombproof, even the windows in your rooms are bombproof."

easy@demon[no.3]



across

1 first letter of alphabet (1)

down

1 middle letter of dad (1)

what could be easier than that? getting on-line with demon of course. we've made it so easy, anyone can do it. just call us on 0800 027 9199 or scribble your name and address anywhere on this ad and send it to us at freepost demon (yes, that's all you have to write). we'll send you our free 30-day trial cd. it doesn't get any easier than that.



Demon Internet
0800 027 9199

A Southside.com Company

www.demon.net email: sales@demon.net

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prisoner can sue for damages

A convicted murderer who was slashed with a razor by two other jail inmates won the go-ahead yesterday to sue the prison for damages.

The Court of Appeal upheld a decision by a County Court judge last year that Gartree prison in Leicestershire acted negligently in not taking reasonable care to ensure the safety of Robert Hartshorn. The ruling means that Hartshorn, who was jailed in 1986, can now seek to have his claim for damages assessed over the attack in July 1995, which left him needing 88 stitches and scarred for life.

It also paves the way for other prisoners who can show that the authorities had been negligent to bring similar claims. At present, only prisoners who are widely accepted to be likely targets of attack, such as child abusers, can seek to pursue such claims.

Bottom of class

A Leeds family action group lost a plea for a judicial review of the city council's decision to close Middle Park High School, which was bottom of the national GCSE league table. The school, which serves a council estate, has a falling register and a deficit of £346,000.

Wife speaks out

The wife of one of the policemen facing criticism over the Stephen Lawrence case defended him yesterday. Rosemary Hiley said that her husband, former Detective Chief Superintendent William Hiley, was not a racist, and that Sir William Macpherson's inquiry had been "unfair and unjust".

Stress claim

A detective who retired early because of ill health is suing Merseyside Police for damages, claiming he was negligently overworked. Detective Constable Paul Hutton, 45, who left in 1993, claims in his action that he suffers stress so badly that he will never be able to work again.

£100 levy to fund new food agency

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is to publish a Bill for the establishment of a Food Standards Agency next Wednesday, along with proposals for funding the new body.

This means that the legislation could be introduced in the current parliamentary session, even though it was missing from the Queen's Speech last November.

How quickly the new agency becomes reality is likely to depend mainly on whether reform of the House of Lords proceeds smoothly, freeing parliamentary time for consideration of the Bill.

The Government is expected to propose that the £100 million-a-year cost of running the agency should be met largely

from an annual levy of £100 on each of the 600,000 shops, hotels, restaurants and other food premises in Britain.

First proposed in a White Paper a year ago, the agency is intended to act as an independent watchdog on food safety, and will take over many of the functions now exercised by the Ministry of Agriculture.

A series of alarms over food safety, from salmonella to "mad cow" disease, have undermined the credibility of the ministry, which has had the role of promoting the food industry as well as policing it.

Much of this latter function would pass to the new agency, which would be chiefly accountable to the Secretary of State for Health.

Davies returns to limelight

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT

RON DAVIES, who resigned as Welsh Secretary last autumn, is today to return to the limelight for the launch of an RSPB pamphlet on how people will be able to use the Welsh assembly to advance "green" concerns.

The event, in Cardiff, is the start of an effort by Mr Davies to regain his standing as a key figure in the assembly. He plans a speech in Cardiff next month to warn the Prime Minister that more freedom should be given to Labour Party members in Wales. But Mr Davies's credibility depends on his being selected as a candidate for the assembly for Caerphilly, his Westminster constituency, tomorrow week.

Who else makes hardwood floors this easy?

FREE nationwide survey & quotation services	✓
PROFESSIONAL FITTING by our own craftsmen - normally in a day	✓
CHOICE of real wood finishes	✓
PRICE GUARANTEE - we refund twice the difference if you find a comparable branded floor for less	✓
COMPETITIVE terms available	✓
Up to 10 YEARS WARRANTY	✓

Call now for free quotation or brochure

woodstock
Hardwood Floor Specialists

0500 67 89 67

A member of the Phoenix Timber Group plc

UP TO 30% OFF SELECTED RANGES

FITTED BY SPECIALISTS

Millions trace war dead on Internet

War Graves Commission site is outstanding success, reports Michael Binyon

MORE than four million people have sought details of their relatives and loved ones in the two months since the names of all those killed in the two world wars were posted on the Internet. The figure is higher than the number of people who have visited the Internet site of Diana, Princess of Wales, and more than twice the number of war dead whose names have been recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The commission, set up in 1917 to tend the graves of soldiers of the British Empire who fell on the Western Front and elsewhere, published all its records, computerised since 1995, on the Internet on November 9: two days before Armistice Day. Since then the site has received more than 55,000 hits a day.

The commission has a staff of 1,200 around the world, the

majority of them gardeners and stone masons. It has a yearly budget of £32 million, funded by the six founding countries: Britain, which pays over 75 per cent of the costs; Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and India. The commission's main task is tending the impressive cemeteries, war memorials and graves across the vast swath of northern Europe that saw ferocious fighting in both world wars, and in more than 100 other countries where Commonwealth soldiers have died.

The commission has offices close to the battlefields at Arras and Ypres, and also in Rome. Keeping as detailed records as possible to "defeat the oblivion of time" has been a prime task. From the earliest days, next of kin and comrades in arms have located and visited the graves and memorials.

In the 1920s the records were kept in card indexes in 3,000 drawers, cross-referenced to 1,500 cemetery registers. It was impossible to find anyone without knowing the surname or details of the date of death or regiment. A search carried out after a written request costs £2.

The new database is free and makes it possible to find people with only scant information to go on. The commis-

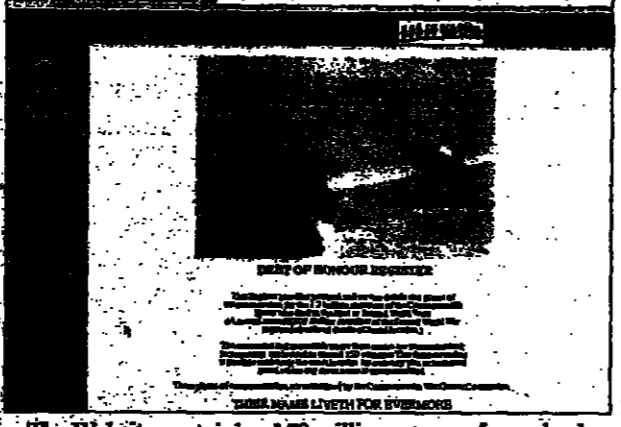
sion says it will be particularly valuable for family historians, teachers, researchers, journalists and all those keeping alive the names and memory of those who fell.

Some of the most famous British poets and architects have been associated with the design of the cemeteries and the wording on war memorials. They include Rudyard Kipling, Frederick Kenyon, Edwin Lutyens, and Reginald Blomfield. Under Fabian Ware, the first vice-chairman of the commission, the firm and, at that time controversial, principle was established that all the dead were to be uniformly commemorated, without distinction between rank, race or creed. All headstones are permanent and similar.

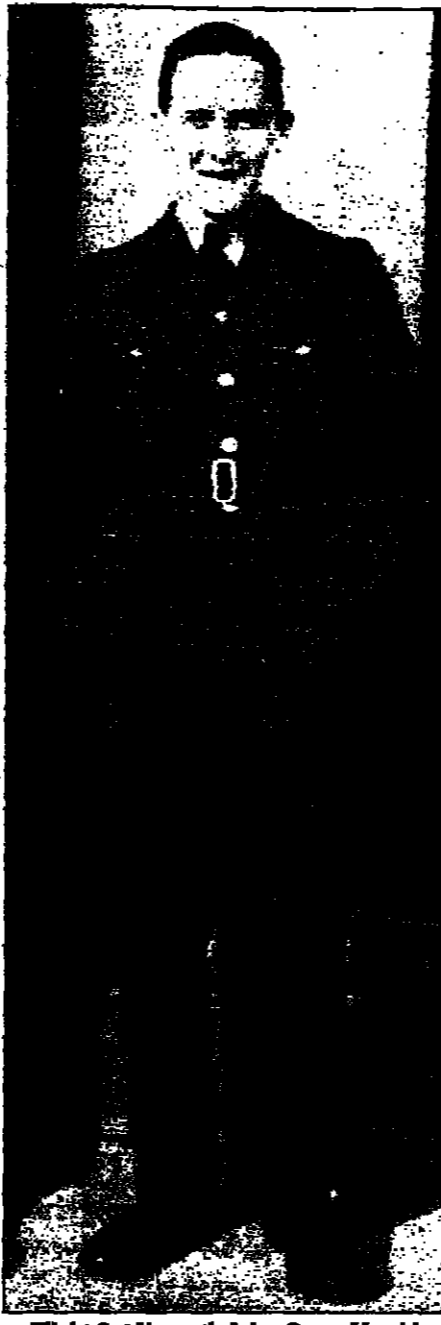
The Internet site reproduces these principles on screen. Each name called up has the same brief description: name, rank, company and date and place of death. On each there is a picture of two poppy wreaths at the foot of the Cenotaph and the celebrated Kipling epitaph: "Their name liveth for evermore".

Further information on each name gives a description of the battle, the circumstances and whatever else is known about the soldier and his regiment.

The commission's site is: <http://www.cwgc.org>



The Website containing 1.78 million names of war dead



Flight Sgt Kenneth John Owen Hawkins

In search of our dear Uncle Owen

Armed with only scant details, David Charter went in search of his grandfather's brother, which triggered a long forgotten memory



THERE was an unwritten rule in my family that the death of Great Uncle Owen Hawkins was, two generations on, still a subject too painful to talk about.

He was the youngest of four children and, as the baby, everyone's favourite. The few pictures that survive show he was barely out of his teens when he was shot down in the Second World War.

I remember my late grandfather lifting the rice-paper veil of a treasured photograph album and pausing over the image of his brother, a dashing young flier grinning with pride and confidence. Poor Owen, he said.

I believe my grandfather visited his grave once, somewhere on the Continent, but I don't remember him talking about it. My mother advised me not to push any questions as it would only upset him.

The details of Owen's sacrifice seemed in danger of being lost altogether when my grandfather, the last of the four siblings, died seven years ago. The lack of a memorial closer to home only added to the fragility of his memory.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission website is very easy to use. Starting without even the official address of the site, my request on the Internet's opening search screen for "War graves" produced 29 options, the second of which is the commission.

After clicking on "search the register" twice, a basic question form asks for details of surname, initial, war or year of death, service and nationality.

At first it seemed as if I would be disappointed. Not one O. Hawkins was among the dozens of Hawkins listed as Royal Air Force casualties.

But the first name I clicked on, the only one with an O among the initials, turned out to be Flight Sergeant Kenneth John Owen Hawkins. I knew immediately it was Great Uncle Owen because it listed his parents' address, the village where my great grandparents are buried.

My first reaction was amazement, not just at finding the records so easily but at confirmation of Owen's age. He was just 21 when he died on Wednesday July 29, 1942. He was a pilot in 23 Squadron RAF volunteer reserve. He is buried in Uden war cemetery in The Netherlands, grave 4.H.1.

My mother was delighted when I told her about the website. It triggered a fantastic last memory of her uncle, who dazzled his four-year-old niece on a surprise home visit shortly before he died. He promised to fly over the house for her and returned that afternoon, rocking the wings of his aircraft as he disappeared.

My mother's one regret about the Internet memorial is that, sadly, there is nobody left in the family of her father's generation to appreciate it.

The most popular sites are often the silliest

By Nick Nuttall
TECHNOLOGY
CORRESPONDENT

THE millions of websites on the Internet range from the silly and irrelevant to the serious and informative.

Whether you want to bid the Prime Minister, slap a Spice Girl or indulge your passion for sports, politics or news and current affairs, someone is there to meet your demand. One of the most popular sites is BBC On-Line - www.bbc.co.uk - which has been attracting nearly 47 million visitors a month, closely followed by Yahoo's UK and Ireland pages, with 44 million.

Other chart-topping websites covered under official figures are Line One, an Internet service provider with 22.6 million visitors a month, and So-

NET LINKS

Internet, a football news service with 12.6 million a month.

There are many websites to rival those in the official charts, among them Huddle's Helpers - www.huddle.com - which follows the fortunes of Glenn Huddle and his guardian angel Ellen, a cartoon character for the England coach's fan club, in a whimsical soap opera called *Wembley Park*. Kevin Moss, of Indie Media, which has designed the site, says it attracts 200,000 visitors a month.

The popular irreverent sites tend to be showcases for computer designers. Many are a mix of alternative culture, including campaigns on green is-

sues, discussions on the legalisation of drugs and comments on football mixed with silly games. www.urban75.com, which attracts about 300,000 visits a month, is the work of Mike Slocombe, and offers, among other things, the chance to punch a celebrity.

Estimating which sites are the most popular is almost impossible, but steps are being made to audit them to produce figures like those for newspaper circulations. The Audit Bureau of Circulation is covering 70 sites, mostly those of media organisations. Among them are www.uploaded.co.uk, an electronic version of loaded magazine (six million a month); the British Tourist Authority's www.visitbritain.com (2 million); and the pop music site www.dotmusic.com (1.4 million).

Taunted boy tried to scrub himself white

By Russell Jenkins

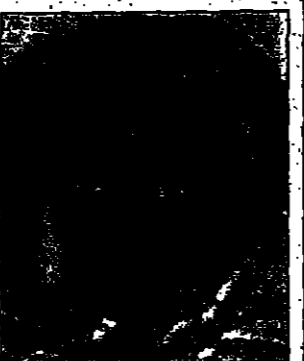
A BLACK boy tried to scrub himself white after being taunted by schoolmates who chanted the refrain from a traditional blues song often sung in assemblies.

Elaine Ramsay, 33, from Radcliffe, Manchester, has withdrawn her son, Elliott Stephens, from the school. She said she could not understand why her son kept saying he wanted to be white until her sister told her about the song, sung at Radcliffe Junior School each week in assembly for the past three years.

Black, Brown and White was written and sung by the American country blues artist Big Bill Broonzy in the 1930s to record how racial prejudice made it difficult for black people to get jobs in the deep south.

The opening verse runs: "This little song that I'm singin' about/ People, you all know that it's true/ If you're black and gotta work for livin' Now, this is what they will say to you/ They says: 'If you was white/ You'd be alright/ If you was brown/ Stick around/ But if you're black, oh, brother/ Get back, get back, get back'".

Ms Ramsay said that, be-



Elliott Stephens: tried to scrub himself white

cause the chorus is repeated five times, the children knew it off by heart and chanted it to her son in the playground. She said her son, as the only fully Afro-Caribbean child in the school, told her that everyone turned to stare at him when the song was sung.

Ms Ramsay said: "He started to say he hated being black and that he wanted to be white. He took knives from the kitchen and said he wanted to kill himself. Once I found him scratching at his skin with a nailbrush to try to make himself white."

George Purcell, the head teacher, said the song had now been withdrawn.

Missing mother murdered, police say

By Paul Wilkinson

POLICE searching for a missing mother said yesterday that they believe she has been murdered. Marsha Wray, 38, vanished two years ago this week after dropping her children Philippa and Robert at primary school.

Yesterday her younger sister, Belinda Maddison, appealed for help in recovering her body so the family could take a proper farewell. She said: "Somebody somewhere knows what happened to Marsha. It is time they came forward. Not only do I need to know but also for the sake of Philippa and Robert."

Mrs Wray's husband, Colin, 50, has admitted that their relationship was strained and that he was the prime suspect but he has denied any involvement in her disappearance. He claimed she told him she needed some time to herself and suggested she had left to start a new life.

Last May police raided their home in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, and a man was detained but later released without charge. Detective Inspector Javed Ali said that if Mrs Wray had died accidentally they should have found her body by now.

Druids take spell on duty

DRUIDS are liaising with council officers in Cornwall to protect ancient religious sites from damage when an estimated 15 million people descend on the county for the summer's eclipse. More than 100 stone circles, standing stones and chambered tombs are expected to become a focus for novice mystics and tourists when the sun is blacked out on August 11.

Steve Hargreaves, the county council's principal archaeologist, said: "Pagans feel, as we do, a

certain ownership and love for these sites." A new Cornish Sacred Sites Protection Network includes representatives from the National Trust, English Heritage, the Pagan Federation and the Order of Bards, Ovates and Druids. It has produced a code of conduct for visitors.

Ed Prynn, Arch Druid of the St Merwyn Druids, which claims 4,000 members, said: "Any-

Sale

The Link

The Link Bring You Further Reductions on One 2 One PRE-PAY PACKAGE

SAVE £30*

ERICSSON 388 UP-2-YOU DIGITAL PRE-PAY PACKAGE

- No Contract To Sign • No Credit Checks
- No Monthly Bills • Calls from 20p per minute*
- Includes £10 Of Calls

Was £129.99

PLUS Collect 12 pre-pay vouchers and get 1 free!

ALSO AVAILABLE - ONE 2 ONE PRE-PAY PACKAGES FROM ONLY £69.99*

MONTHLY OPTION

SAVE 50%*

MOTOROLA MONTE CARLO ONE 2 ONE DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE

- FREE CALLS - Choose From Either 45 minutes of calls, free weekend, evening or daytime calls every month**
- Line rental starts from £17.50 per month

Was £79.99

ALSO AVAILABLE IN-STORE - MASSIVE SAVINGS ON OTHER MONTHLY PACKAGES

ONE YEAR VALUE PACK

SAVE £140*

ERICSSON 388 ONE-2-45 VALUE PACK INCLUDES

- 12 Months Line Rental
- Connection Fee
- One 2 One Digital Mobile Phone
- 45 Minutes Of Free Calls Every Month
- Calls from 5p per minute*

Was £179.99

ALSO AVAILABLE - ONE 2 ONE ONE YEAR VALUE PACKS FROM ONLY £99.99*

free serve

for

free

unlimited internet access

Pick up a free CD in-store today!

The best and easiest way to a fully featured internet package for the cost of a hard hat.

www.freeserve.net

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST CHOICE

EXPERT ADVICE

GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES

OVER 165 STORES NATIONWIDE

Freephone 0500 222 666

For your nearest store

The Link

*A minimum of £20 must be credited to account every 30 days to make and receive calls. **When you take out a new connection to a One 2 One monthly tariff for 12 months, line rental starts from £10.50 per month. Additional calls from 5p per minute, depending on monthly tariff connected to. *When you purchase a One Year Value Package, Savings compared to paying monthly = £125.00 (£10 x £12.50 for Connection + £125.00 for Ericsson 388, plus £129.99 for 12 months of calls). **If you find monthly the same package cheaper in a local store within 7 days, we will refund the difference. **Subject to monthly tariff connected to. **Prepay vouchers to be used within 3 months. **Subject to availability and crediting a £50 voucher between 1/1/99 and 31/3/99. *Promotional offer tariff connected to. So per minute call rate is 5p per minute. Ask for details. Connection to mobile phones is subject to status. A deposit may be required. Ask for details.

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST IN COOKING

**NEXT DAY
DELIVERY**
**7 DAYS
A WEEK***

Candy

EXTRA DISCOUNT

CANDY Variable Grill
Single Electric Oven

■ Fan electric oven.
■ Available in White or Brown.
■ Variable grill.
Model F21.
Was £269.99.
In-store Price £219.99.

SAVE
A TOTAL OF
100

COUPON PRICE
£169.99

**NEXT DAY
DELIVERY
7 DAYS A WEEK**
When you purchase before
11.45 hour delivery in parts
northern Ireland and more
note parts of Scotland.
You can even choose morning
afternoon delivery, or take
some now.
In-store for details.

ORDER DIRECT
FREEPHONE 0500 304304
For doorstep delivery in 3 working days
or fax 01442 888109 (9am-5pm Mon-Fri;
9am-5pm Sat; 9am-5pm Sun). Delivery
charges from £1.25. Part of UK Retail Ltd.

PEACE OF MIND
Same day service available, full or in-store. And a MasterCard Coverage providing up to \$5000 in coverage.

**LOWEST PRICES
ON THE SPOT**

Find a lower price for the same product and offer, complete new, boxed and in stock in a local shop within 7 days of purchase and we'll match it.

WE'LL NEVER BE BEATEN

ALL SUPERSTORES OFFER EASY PURCHASING, LATE NIGHT SHOPPING AND SUNDAY OPENINGS. Ring 0900 500048 for details of your nearest store.

WATCH OUT FOR OUR VOUCHER SPECIALS! Look out for the special voucher savings on selected products throughout this advertisement. Simply take this ad to any Carrys Store to claim your discount. Get voucher savings on everything. Some voucher offers may also include information to extend similar offers just for you at other offices. Branch one only. Discount valid Code A (Grand Office only). [10/01/97] Details would be provided.

NEW WORLD Sloan Start-in Dual Fuel Cooker Electric Oven, Gas Hob Model SCDF7000 Was \$2,399.99 \$1,999.99	CANNON <small>Black & Decker</small> Dual Fuel Cooker Electric Fan Mail Oven Model NEW HAWKSHOT Was \$2,999.99 \$1,799.99	DAEWOO 0.5 cu ft Microwave with Grill & Microwave Power Levels Model DMR-05 Was \$179.99 \$79.99	PANASONIC 0.5 cu ft. Microwave 200 Watts Microwave Power Model NN-M554 Was \$119.99 \$99.99
6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*		EXTRA DISCOUNT	
6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*		EXTRA DISCOUNT	

■ Double Oven.
■ 4 Burners in 2 Sizes.
Model CAMBERLEY.
In-store Price £749.99.
6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION.

 <p>HOTPOINT <small>EXTRADEWELL</small> 0.8 cu.ft. "Cosmo" Microwave in 800 Watts Power Output, 5.5 Power Levels Model MW1514. Was \$109.99</p>	<p>SAVE £10</p> <p>SALE PRICE £99.99</p>	<p>HOTPOINT <small>EXTRADEWELL</small> 0.8 cu.ft. Microwave with Convection Oven and Grill Available in Light Model MC25N. Was £129.99. In-store Price £119.99.</p>	<p>SALE PRICE £119.99</p>
---	--	--	---

DAEWOO 0.5 cu.ft. Microwave with Grill 3 Microwave Power Levels, Model 3662. Was £197.99. In-store Price £97.99	VOUCHER PRICE £30 £79.99
PANASONIC 0.5 cu.ft. Microwave 100 Watts Microwave Power Output, Model NR-E348. Was £139.99. In-store Price £119.99	VOUCHER PRICE £40 £99

HOTPOINT EXCLUSIVE 0.6 cu.ft. "Cassini" Microwave

Scottish stores.

WE'LL NEVER BE BEATEN
ALL SUPERSTORES OFFER EASY PARKING, LATE NIGHT
SHOPPING AND SUNDAY OPENING. Ring 0990 500048
for details of your nearest store.

'Why weren't we told girls were missing?'



The girls should have walked just 500 yards down Woodland Vale Road to Christ Church Primary School in St Leonards. The 450 pupils said prayers for their safety yesterday as more police and soldiers were drafted in to the search

THE parents of two ten-year-old girls missing from home demanded to know yesterday why they had not been told immediately by the school that they had not arrived for lessons.

Charlene Lunnion's father, Keith, and stepmother, Philomena, and Lisa Hoodless's parents, Andy and Julie, said the school in East Sussex should have contacted them, especially after it issued a warning over the Christmas holidays about a man seen loitering near the buildings.

But Christ Church Primary School in St Leonards was backed by the local education authority over its decision not to alert them on the ground that the two pupils have good attendance records.

Parents say they should have been alerted at once when girls failed to arrive at school, reports John O'Leary

Their absence was put down to "normal illness".

As the parents prepared to spend a third night without news, Mrs Hoodless said of her daughter: "She is a very emotional child and she would be scared and very frightened, cold and hungry. If anybody has any information could they please come forward."

Mr Lunnion said of Charlene: "It is totally out of character. They have never not come home before 3.45pm. I cannot understand how this has happened."

The two girls had been walking to school on their own for a month after Lisa told her parents she wanted to be "responsible". Lisa left home first to call for Charlene. The route passes no major roads or wooded areas. Residents have been asked to search sheds and garages.

State schools will be given new government advice today which could have saved crucial hours in the search for the girls. Estelle Morris, the School Standards Minister, is expected to tell head teachers that they should contact parents on the first day that a child is absent. At present the usual practice is to wait until the second day.

Christ Church School followed the current guidelines, issued five years ago, which put the onus on

parents to inform schools of the reasons for a child's absence. A council spokeswoman said the school contacted parents immediately only if the absences were regular truants.

Most state schools adopt the same practice, assuming that a child is ill unless there is reason to suspect truancy. Parents are contacted if there is no explanation for a prolonged absence.

The new guidelines are part of the Government's drive to cut truancy. They are expected to say: "On the first day of absence, if a pupil is absent without explanation when the school register is called, school staff should — wherever possible —

contact the parents that same day." At the school yesterday the 450 pupils said prayers for Charlene and Lisa. Parents have tied a yellow ribbon to the main gate to express their sympathy with the girls' families.

In the staffroom and head teacher's study at the Church of England school there is growing anxiety and resentment at any suggestion that the school has been remiss. Anne Hartney, the head, and Father Richard Harper, chairman of governors, said the school, which was founded in the late Victorian era, had followed the guidance of local education authority in dealing with

the absences. Since alerting parents of a possible snooper — a man seen in a white van near the school — the school has continued to operate a policy in which it takes no immediate action over absence unless the pupil has a poor attendance record. The school, which has a good local reputation, is supported by the local education authority. A spokeswoman for the county council said: "There was nothing to suggest the girls' absence was due to anything but normal illness."

"While individual policies vary, our guidance suggests schools encourage parents to contact schools on the first day their child is absent.

If parents don't do that, schools are advised to contact parents that first day only where it is appropriate. These two girls certainly did not have a poor record of attendance. The school followed normal procedures."

David Hart, the general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said the link with the search for the two girls should not silence debate on the merits of the Government's revised guidelines. "Having to follow up all absences on the first day is going to impose a severe burden on many schools."

Mr Hart said: "Parents often do not notify schools as soon as children are ill, so there is no reason to think that anything is amiss."

Police fear for frightened pair

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE 200 police drafted into Hastings from all over Sussex in the search for the two girls are led by the officer who headed the inquiry into the murder of a 10-year-old girl, Billie-Jo Jenkins, in 1997.

Detective Superintendent Jeremy Paine has a team seasoned in policing the decaying Ginge-Port, where there are many down-and-outs and people on benefits living in bedsits. A specialist team of officers who have studied the behaviour of runaway children is also on hand. Mr Paine said it was rare for two children to disappear on their own.

"If you have a single child disappearing, it gets more and more likely there has been a tragedy — but two we don't have a precedent for. They must be very frightened."

Police have made house-to-

house inquiries, notably along the girls' route to school. Helped by the Princess of Wales Regiment, they spread the search to rural areas yesterday, backed by helicopters and dog teams. Haunts suggested by schoolfriends have been searched, as have derelict buildings, sheds, garages, factories and hedges and ditches, more than once. The town is full of posters appealing for information. People, asked to check their own gardens and out-buildings.

But Mr Paine says his "gut feeling" is that the pair have left the area, possibly for an adventure to London.

Police have checked the movements of registered paedophiles and accept that the longer the girls are missing the more likely it is that an adult may be involved.

Lisa had 'a minor problem at home'

DETECTIVES said that Lisa Hoodless was worried about "home aspect" of her home life, but they made it clear that it was a minor problem and did not explain why she should have run away (Michael Horsnell writes).

Lisa, 10, lives with her father, Andy, 37, a council gardener, and her mother, Julie, 35, together with her brother, James, 12, and sisters Christine, 7, and Georgina, 12 months, in a semi-detached home in De Cham Road, Hastings. There was no sign that she had made any preparations to run away or that she took any money with her.

She and Charlene became friends when Charlene moved into a house in the next road, only 400 yards from Christ Church school — a journey they made together each morning, but on which they



were always accompanied on their return. Lisa, who is said to be a sensible, responsible girl, is a fan of the Spice Girls. Police hope that her distinctive orange jacket bearing the words Spice Fever, and her pink Spice Girls bag, will lead to her identification.

Grieving may have prompted journey

CHARLENE LUNNON was traumatised by the death of her mother, Sandra, after an asthma attack in February 1997 and her disappearance may be connected to her grief (Michael Horsnell writes).

Charlene, who lived with her mother after her parents separated, does not like to be on her own and is afraid of the dark.

After going to live with her father, Keith, and his new wife last April, she took comfort from visits to the crematorium in Rotslip, West London, where her mother's ashes are interred. Police believe that she may have become upset because of the approaching second anniversary of her mother's death and may have decided to visit the crematorium with Lisa Hoodless.

Mr Lunnion, a druggist and alcohol counsellor, said: "Last



year I took her to where the ashes are and she was upset because she loved her mother very much. Charlene knew that if she wanted to go there we could, but she didn't ask me."

'It's almost enough to make me like cooking!'

Schreiber
QUALITY BY DESIGN

50% OFF
KITCHEN CABINETS

HURRY! SOME OFFERS MUST END 3RD FEB

THIS READY ASSEMBLED 7 CABINET SCHREIBER RICHMOND KITCHEN INCLUDING ALL APPLIANCES AND ACCESSORIES

£1297
SALE PRICE
WAS £2388 SAVE £1061
COMPRESSED 7 CABINET, OVERHEAD EXTRACTOR, SINK, TAPS AND MICROWAVE
INCLUDING A LARDER FRIDGE AND FREEZER

FREE FRIDGE AND FREEZER

NEW OFFERS

FREEZER
WAS £205 TND6023
SALE PRICE £199

LARDER FRIDGE
WAS £229 TND6023
SALE PRICE £179

£200 OFF*

FREE-STANDING

MFI home works

SHOPPING HOURS: Sun 11-5, Mon 10-8, Tues, Wed, Thurs 10-6, Fri 10-8, Sat 9-6
N. Ireland Exceptions: Sun 1-6, Mon 10-6, Wed to Fri 10-9

PRICE INFORMATION: *THE KITCHEN COMPREHENSIVE: 7 RIGID CABINETS: 2000mm Hi-Line Base Unit x 2, 1000mm Drawer Line Base Unit x 2, 1000mm Full Height Wall Unit x 2, 600mm built Under Oven Housing Unit x 1, 600mm Hob Wall Unit x 1, ACCESSORIES: Stainless Steel Lay-on-Sink (SP8821/22), White and Overflow Filter Tap (TAP100), Worktop 30mm x 3m x 1, Corollaous Plinth x 2, Return Plinth x 4, QA Appliance Package (A07881/2), Electric Oven Mokka or White (APM 310/20), Extractor Mokka or White (APM 214/24), Larder Fridge (TND 6023), Freezer (TND 6022). *When assembled orders to Right Cabinet only. Doors, drawer fronts, worktops, appliances and accessories are packed separately. *Written quotations available on request from MFI, 322 The Hyde, Edgware Road, Uxbridge, London W197 6JG. It is a licensed credit broker. Advertised credit available in England and Wales only. For Scotland and Northern Ireland please see website for details of alternative offers. All items subject to status and availability. Subject to terms and conditions of trading. See website for details.

Security trick leads to airport inquiry

By MARK INGLEFIELD, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government is to hold an investigation into airport security after a serious breach allegedly took place at Heathrow.

The inquiry, which was announced yesterday by John Reid, the Transport Minister, came after an undercover reporter gained a security pass to work for Skyliner Services, one of the main cleaning firms at Heathrow.

The reporter, who was working for *The Sun*, claimed that he had secured a pass despite supplying the company with a string of bogus references. Skyliner employed him three weeks later and he was given unsupervised access to the kitchen and bar areas of six aircraft. The company declined to comment yesterday.

As a result of this alleged security breach, Dr Reid has ordered BAA, the airports authority, to withdraw security passes from all Skyliner Services staff.

Dr Reid said that no new temporary passes would be issued "until such time as we are satisfied necessary and appropriate checks have been carried out to ensure that each individual is a suitable person to be employed at the airport". Dr Reid also asked his officials to carry out "an urgent re-

appraisal of the regulations governing the issue of all employee passes at UK airports".

Although the minister stopped short of revoking Skyliner's contract, he made it clear that this was one of the "range of punitive measures" that might be taken if the company were found to be negligent in its security procedures. The *Sun* had claimed that its reporter was left alone on six aircraft and was able to take a photograph of himself yards from the cockpit.

Dr Reid said yesterday that, so far, all he had were allegations, but "the prima facie report is sufficiently serious for all of us, public and ministers, to be concerned". He said he thought that between ten and 20 temporary staff were employed by the firm.

The *Sun* carried the report on Wednesday, ten years after the paper exposed security failures at the airport in the wake of the Lockerbie bombing.

"The fact that there's ten years in between should in no way diminish the seriousness," Dr Reid said. "It only takes one breach of security to undermine all of the efforts which BAA in particular, and our officials and inspectors and security specialists, have been making."



Valerie Marshall will lead a £720,000 quest for a naturally creamy yoghurt

Yoghurt scientists win pot of EU cash

By PAUL WILKINSON

A RESEARCH team has won a £720,000 grant from Brussels for a three-year project on making yoghurt creamy.

The European Commission is helping scientists from the dairy industry to develop a natural thickening process, avoiding the need for artificial additives and gelatine.

The team, drawn from across Europe, is led by Valerie Marshall, a microbial biochemist at Huddersfield University. She said that improving yoghurt consistency had long been a challenge for manufacturers. "We want to develop a yoghurt to get that creamy feel naturally by harnessing its natural organisms. This way is cheaper, because you're using a process that is already there."

The team was one of only 50 to win grants out of 500 applicants working on food or agriculture projects. Professor Marshall said: "I don't think it's a awful lot of money because it's shared between seven partners. That works out at about £30,000 a year to each."

Tomorrow in *the times* magazine

KATE
WINSLET
as never before

'I got so thin. So tired. I was bone. It was horrible.'

WINSLET on sex, drugs and losing weight

THE SATURDAY TIMES
Only 50p

HOME BASE

e-Sale-Sale-Sale-Sale-Sa

NEW OFFERS
THIS WEEK

UP TO 20% off
ALL BATHROOM SUITES

UP TO 25% off
SELECTED DOORS

UP TO 30% off
ALL SPOTLIGHTS



Save £8

Now £28.99 Was £36.99
Pine Minster SA
15-Pane
Glazed Door
78" x 30"

Only £17.99

Save £2 Was £19.99
Colonial Textured
Moulded Door
78" x 30"



Save £10

Now £39.99 Was £49.99
Victorian Pine
Glazed Door
78" x 30"

Save £9.25

Now £27.74 Was £36.99
Stanley 30" White
Mirror Door

Save £89.80

Now £359.20 Was £449
English
Country
5-Piece Suite
Chrome Finish
Fittings

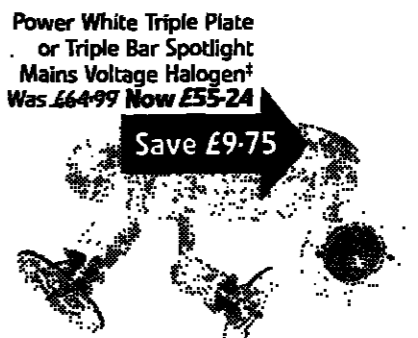
Save £79.35

Now £449.65 Was £529
Victoriana
5-Piece Suite
Chrome Finish
Fittings



Spiro Gunmetal and
Brass Effect Triple Plate
or Triple Bar Spotlight
Was £49.99 £39.99
Now £33.99

Save £16



Power White Triple Plate
or Triple Bar Spotlight
Mains Voltage Halogen
Was £64.99 Now £55.24

Save £9.75



Now £30.59 Was £35.99
Quadro Triple Plate
Chrome Effect Spotlight

Save £5.40

Stone inquiry to look at health law

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE independent inquiry into the care of Michael Stone, convicted last October of the murders of Lin and Megan Russell, is also to report on the adequacy of current mental health law, it emerged yesterday.

West Kent Health Authority, which was responsible for Stone's care at the time of the killings in July 1996, said that it was keen to establish whether the case should prompt the Government to consider changing the law governing the compulsory detention of people with mental health problems.

Although he was known to have a criminal record and to be prone to violent outbursts, Stone could not be detained under the Mental Health Act

against his will because he had been found to be suffering from a personality disorder deemed to be untreatable.

The case raised intense debate about what should be done to protect the public from people with personality disorders who may be a threat to others, but who have not committed a crime and cannot therefore be detained.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, attracted criticism from psychiatrists after he accused them of using out-of-date working practices. He said it was "extraordinary" that they would take on only those patients they regarded as treatable.

The panel, chaired by Robert Francis, QC, is expected to report by the end of the year.

Adopt one for Valentine's Day

Adopting an orangutan for someone you love makes a great Valentine's gift.

Forest fires throughout Indonesia have left hundreds of baby orangutans orphaned and in the mercy of poachers. WSPA helps fund the rescue and care of these beautiful animals and release them back into a safe environment.

You can help us save the orangutans by adopting one. For £15 we'll send you an adoption certificate, two photos of a baby orangutan called Pur and his story. For £25 you'll get all these, plus a video of orangutans being rescued.

Guaranteed delivery by Valentine's Day for orders received by 30th January.

I want to Adopt an Orangutan

Please return this adoption form to the address below.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Date of birth (if under 18) _____

If you are adopting an orangutan as a gift for a friend or a relative, and want their name on the certificate, please write their name here: _____

If you would like to make more than one adoption, please photocopy this form.

☐ £15 (for an adoption certificate, 2 photos and Pur's story)

☐ £25 (for all the above plus a video of the orangutan rescue)

(Please make your cheque payable to WSPA or W in your credit card details below)

Visa / MasterCard / Switch / Eurocard / CAC / ChargeCard / Amex.

(Please tick the card you are using)

Card No. _____

(If paying by Switch, use the number printed across the middle of your card)

Expiry date _____ Switch issue no. _____

Today's date _____ X

Signature _____

Please send this completed form and your donation to:

WSPA, Dept. AET23, Freepost SOE996, Middlesbrough TS12 6GZ.

THANK YOU.

OR CALL 0800 616 919

Freepost only 0800 616 919

e-Sale-Sale-Sale-Sale-Sa

www.homebase.co.uk MONDAY-THURSDAY 8AM - 8PM • FRIDAY 8AM - 9PM • SATURDAY 8AM - 8PM • SUNDAY 10AM - 4PM

*If you can find any of these products or offers locally at a cheaper price, we'll refund the difference. This will not affect your statutory rights. Prices marked include discounts. Merchandise subject to availability. **Each panel available separately. Products and offers may vary in Northern Ireland and Eire. Further size included. *Does not include taps. Consists of bath, pedestal, basin, cistern and pan. **Opening times may vary. **Stores in Scotland open Sunday 10am-6pm. Certain other stores open 11am-5pm. Please call 0845 801 800 during office hours for details of your nearest store.

Blair says we need more do-gooders

By MARK HENDERSON AND ALEXANDRA FREAN

A DIRECTORY providing details of voluntary organisations is to be sent to every household in Britain as part of a drive to promote charity as figures disclosed that individual giving had dropped by nearly a third over five years.

The directory, which will set out opportunities for voluntary work, is one of the initiatives announced by the Prime Minister yesterday to increase support for charities. Addressing the National Council of Voluntary Organisations conference, Tony Blair urged Britons to mark the millennium with an "explosion in giving" and for the term "do-gooder" no longer to carry a sneering tone. Mr Blair said: "Let those of us who believe in the power of community reclaim the idea of doing good and wear it as a badge of pride. It is good to do good — good for those charities and organisations and neighbourhoods in which the good is being done, but good for the do-gooder as well." His comments build on his call at the 1997 Labour Party conference for a "giving age".

Yesterday he also announced plans for a Whitehall task

force, the Active Community Unit, to co-ordinate and promote voluntary work across the country, and two new schemes that will encourage people to give time to charity. The measures coincided with the publication by the National Council of Voluntary Organisations of figures showing that donations to charity have fallen by 31 per cent in the past five years. Separate research from the National Centre for Volunteers showed a decline in the number of people giving their time. The biggest drop was among young people. Seven years ago 55 per cent of 18 to 24-year-olds said they had volunteered in the past year. The figure is now 43 per cent.

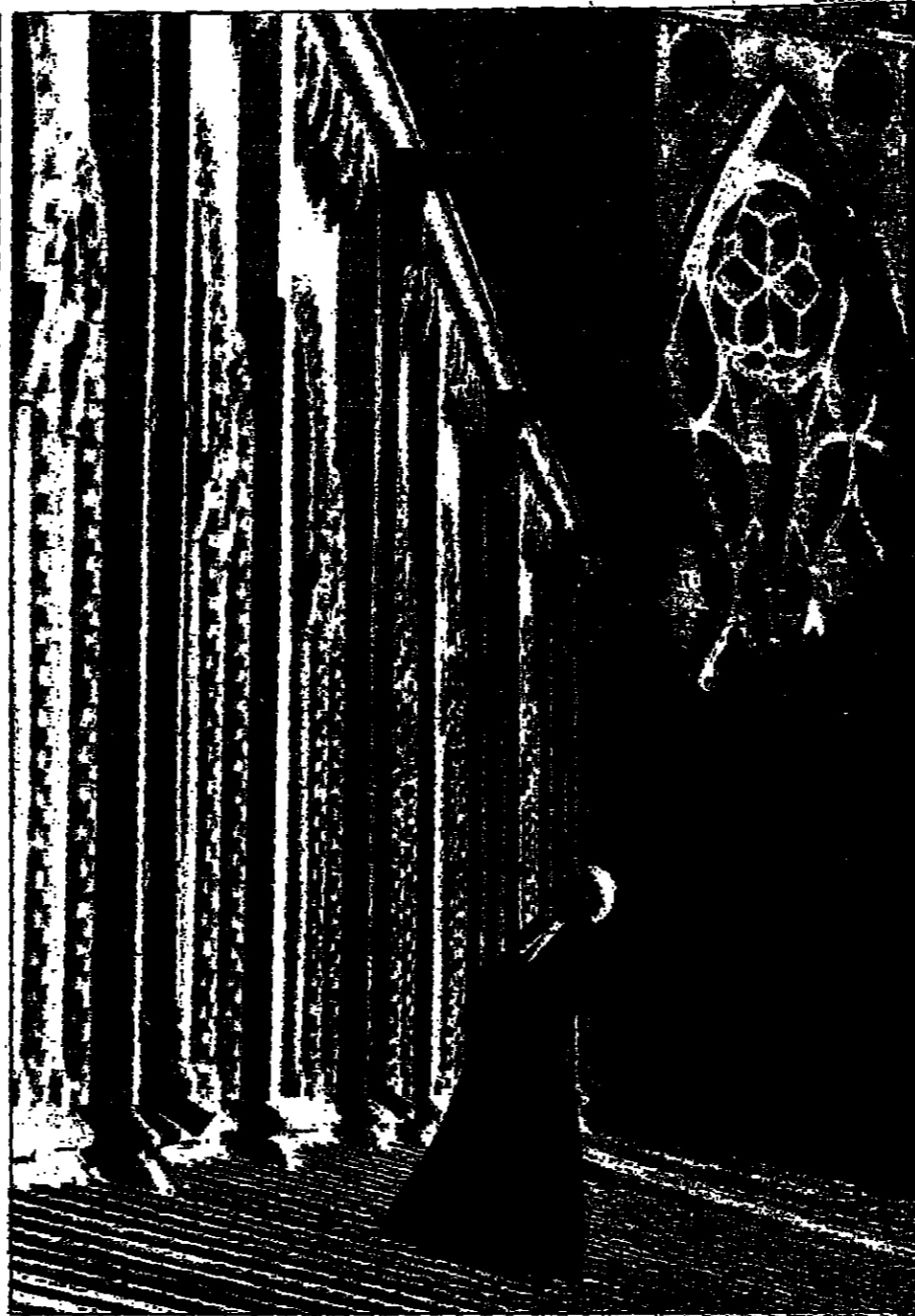
Stuart Etherington, chief executive of the NCVO, welcomed the initiatives, but called for tax breaks to encourage the rich to donate, and for charities to be exempt from VAT. "If it is a priority for government to give support to the sector, we need to see mechanisms that will help generate income and individual giving."

Mr Blair also launched the Millennium Awards Fellowship programme yesterday.

40,000 Britons will receive grants of an average of £2,000, by the end of next year to undertake community and charity projects. The £200 million programme is funded by the Millennium Commission, and an endowment fund will make the scheme permanent.

Millennium Fellows will receive a certificate of achievement, the first of which were presented by Mr Blair yesterday. These are intended to increase the esteem in which volunteers are held by society. The idea has been copied from America, where a period of voluntary service is virtually obligatory on the strongest CVs.

David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, announced details yesterday of the Millennium Volunteers programme, which will use £48 million of public money to provide thousands of 16 to 24-year-olds with opportunities for voluntary work. The scheme had been intended as a kind of civil "national service" taking in hundreds of thousands of people, but has been scaled back because of problems with long-term funding. Participants will receive certificates of achievement.



The Very Rev Michael Higgins, Dean of Ely, on the newly repaired cathedral roof

Cathedrals face funding cut for repair delays

By JOHN SHAW

CATHEDRALS that fail to carry out grant-aided repairs promptly are putting future funding at risk, Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage, said yesterday.

His warning was directed at the authorities of about a dozen cathedrals that have failed to complete work on time and to budget.

The organisation is offering the cathedrals — which he did not name — a further £9 million for repairs over the next three years. But, under the terms of the scheme the work must be carried out within the appropriate financial year. Money cannot be carried over, Sir Jocelyn said: "Those who fall behind can expect to have their level of funding reduced."

Sir Jocelyn had travelled to Ely, Cambridgeshire, to announce the funding. Just over £3 million is to be shared between 29 buildings for repairs in the next 12 months. The Cathedral Grant Scheme has paid out almost £30 million since it began in 1991.

Sir Jocelyn said Ely had set a wonderful example in its grant management. He went up on the roof to inspect nine years of repair work and admire a view stretching more than 20 miles over the flat East Anglian landscape. Ely has already received about £3 million in funding.

He said that management of the project was a tribute to the Very Rev Michael Higgins, the Dean, and his predecessor, the Very Rev Bill Patterson.

The 11th-century cathedral, known as the Ship of the Fens because of its dominance of the surrounding countryside, will get another £416,000. The money will complete repairs to the north choir aisle and fund the first part of a two-year project for work on the Galilee Porch.

Richard Halsey, head of the cathedral's restoration project and director of English Heritage in the Eastern Counties, said of the behind-schedule cathedrals: "Some have fallen behind for quite legitimate reasons, because it takes a lot to manage a project on this scale and the skills are not always available."

Salisbury Cathedral has been offered the largest grant, of £503,000, to continue work on the masonry of the west front and repairs to the medieval glazing and the southeast transept.

Other large grants have gone to Lincoln Cathedral for repairs to masonry and glazing of the Dean's Eye window, and roof and stonework in the north nave, and aisle (£364,000), and Worcester Cathedral for repairs to masonry and roofs (£360,000).

City lawyers give up their time to help pupils with reading

Hannah Betts on a project that is benefiting from free books scheme

A SCHOOL named after the father of genetic engineering has come up with a cross-fertilisation strategy of its own to boost its involvement in The Times Free Books for Schools Scheme.

Thomas Fairchild School, in Hackney, East London, and Linklaters, a leading City law firm, joined forces in September to form an in-school reading programme and are now directing their combined energies to collecting tokens for the scheme.

Every week 40 Linklaters lawyers and support staff devote one of their lunch breaks to teaching reading at the school. The project was massively oversubscribed, with almost 200 staff applying to help. The pairings are the same each week, so that a

bond is forged between two very different worlds.

The primary school is located in an economically deprived area and, for a large proportion of the children, English is their second language.

Alasdair Friend, the head teacher, said: "Literacy is one of our top priorities, but it's also been a real cultural change. We're less than five minutes away from the City, but some of our children have never been there. It's an introduction to another world."

The reading partners become firm friends. Gary McKinnzie-Smith, a trainee solicitor, reads with eight-year-old Baboucar Jeng, known as Bab. Mr McKinnzie-Smith said: "The relationship is a unique one for me; he's eight



and I'm 25. We've both enjoyed meeting someone from a different world in life." Mr McKinnzie-Smith says that Bab is cheeky and enjoys the kudos that the scheme brings him with other children.

Since the project started, reading has become the fashionable lunchtime activity at Thomas Fairchild, with pupils lining up to meet the Linklaters' taxis. At Christmas, a

celebration was held at Linklaters for lunchtime readers.

Lately, children and lawyers alike have become avid collectors of the Free Books for Schools tokens printed in The Times and on packets of Walkers crisps. "Our token collecting's going really well. Bab enjoys crisps and I always read The Times," Mr McKinnzie-Smith said.

Does your school or business have a story to tell about its participation in The Times Free Books for Schools Scheme? If so, please call on weekdays and leave details on 0171-895 9018. At the end of the scheme, The Times will publish a Free Books for Schools honours list in which successful schools and businesses will be commended for the number of tokens they collected and for the original ways in which they did so. Telephone your nominations now.

Token, page 24

Bible class finds room at the inn

By SUE LAPPAMAN

A SUNDAY school class is to meet in a pub after having to leave the vicarage.

Children from St Peter and St Paul's Church in Shoreham, Kent, will have their lessons next to gaming machines and a pool table in the back room of the George Inn at Shoreham, Kent.

The class, now with 20 pupils, had been meeting in rooms at the former vicarage for the past 13 years but the family that lived there has decided to rent out the rooms.

The Rev Barry Simmons found the most convenient venue for the school at the pub across the road.

Mick Farris, the landlord, said: "The room at the back of the pub is not connected to the main bar." Mr Simmons said: "We shall be there only from 10.30 to 11.30 on Sunday mornings so there won't be any of the public there."

Oxford college suspends its anti-fees protester

By HANNAH BETTS

AN OXFORD college yesterday suspended one of the five students at the centre of the tuition fees protest because it fears that she is jeopardising her education.

The action follows the university's decision to ban the protesters from its premises, including the Examination Schools and all libraries.

Laura Paskell-Brown, the only protester at St Hilda's College, has not been permanently expelled and can be reinstated as soon as she pays the £1,000 fee.

Elizabeth Llewellyn-Smith, the Principal of St Hilda's, said yesterday: "We couldn't carry on with a situation in which one of our students was nominally on a degree course, but not able to carry out the job she was here to do. It was a half-baked situation. It's not a punitive action — we're not doing our duty by a student if she can't work."

Miss Llewellyn-Smith added

ed that she and the whole of the Senior Common Room would be extremely sorry if Ms Paskell-Brown decided not to reconsider her position.

The suspension will come into force on Monday, after Ms Paskell-Brown has had an opportunity to appeal. Under the ruling, she will be barred from all college buildings.

Ms Paskell-Brown, 24, said the move would force her to submit: "The last few days have been absolutely hellish, and in many ways I'm just glad it's all over. I defend my principles into the ground, but I'm being backed into a corner now and I don't think I can go on. But the campaign against fees is by no means over — we will continue our fight indefinitely."

At Somerville, four protesters are waiting to hear their fate after a meeting of the college's governing body. Dame Fiona Caldicott, Principal of the college, said yesterday that

she wanted to speak to each student before announcing the college's decision.

Yesterday the colleges issued a statement: "The university, Somerville and St Hilda's Colleges are prepared to take action in response to the non-payment of tuition fees by a small number of students."

"We regret that the move, which these students are protesting against the Government's changes to the funding of higher education has put them in this position. However, we must consider the consequences of their actions for their studies and the implications of their non-payment for other members of the university. We hope this matter will be resolved as soon as possible."

Today 2,000 students from around the country will take part in Oxford's biggest demonstration for nine years.

John O'Leary, page 41

SALE MUST END NEXT WEEKEND

FREE 3D COLOUR DESIGN AND PLANNING SERVICE

10 YEAR GUARANTEE ON OUR UNIQUE BUILT CARCASSES

EXPERT FITTING BY MASTER INSTALLERS

FLEXIBLE PAYMENT SCHEMES AVAILABLE

Opening hours: Monday to Saturday 9.00am-5.00pm. Selected branches open until 8.00pm on Thursday and 10.00am-4.00pm on Sunday. Check each branch for details.

HALF PRICE SALE

PLUS FREE FULLY INTEGRATED DISHWASHER!
worth £619
WHEN YOU SPEND OVER £1,500

OR FREE AMERICAN FRIDGE FREEZER!
worth £899
WHEN YOU SPEND OVER £1,500

*Fantastic savings on the entire Magnet range of kitchen and bedroom cabinets, and that's not all. We'll also give you a service that's second to none. Plus, we're offering an optional stainless steel dynamic drawer system on most kitchens and a wide range of worktops including solid granite and corian. Add to this some great deals on **Quasar** and **Whirlpool** appliances and you'd have to agree that no one else offers as much. But then no one else offers kitchens that are designed for living, built for life. Your life.*

CALL 0800 192 192

For details of your nearest showroom, please quote reference T117

Magnet

Designed for living BUILT FOR LIFE

www.magnet.co.uk

Pinochet 'can only be tried in Spain'

BY JOANNA BAILE

EXTRADITION to Spain is the only way to bring General Pinochet to justice because Chile is unlikely to put him on trial, Amnesty International told the law lords yesterday.

Ian Brownlie, QC, for Amnesty International, said: "It appears to be extremely unlikely that justice will be done in Chile and, given the obvious absence of any jurisdiction of an international criminal tribunal, then all that is left are extradition proceedings."

Addressing the new hearing to decide the general's fate, Professor Brownlie stated that, if extradition was denied, the former dictator "would have the benefit of a wall of impunity". He also argued that international conventions on torture and hostage-taking adopted into British law were sufficient to deny General Pinochet the immunity for a head of state that he is claiming.

Sections of the State Immunity Act 1978, which might be deemed to afford him immunity, did not do so, he said. "The State Immunity Act does not apply to criminal proceedings. In any case, you cannot have

immunity from proceedings over acts which constitute crimes in international law."

Professor Brownlie made no mention of the fact that it was Lord Hoffmann's failure to disclose his close links with Amnesty International that had caused the law lords to set aside their initial decision denying immunity to General Pinochet.

Amnesty was once again granted permission to address the hearing, and the organisation's counsel is also representing two other human rights groups as well as the families of two British victims of the Pinochet regime, William Beausire and Sheila Cassidy.

Earlier the law lords were told that tortures alleged to have been carried out under the orders of the general had long been recognised as crimes under international law. Christopher Greenwood, for the Crown Prosecution Service, on behalf of Spain, argued that there was a clear international consensus about torture. He said: "We are not dealing with an area of international law in which reasonable states differ.



Lucia Pinochet, wife of the former dictator, greeting supporters outside his home in Surrey. She thanked them for their efforts on his behalf

We are dealing with conduct which for 60 years has been unequivocally deemed to be unlawful, a crime under international law."

Professor Greenwood went on to say that the allegations against General Pinochet were not purely an internal matter for Chile. "Torture falls into the category of acts which have become a matter of concern to the entire international

community, wherever they take place." He argued that it was clear that individual countries had jurisdiction to try allegations of torture, pointing out that the proposed international criminal court was not yet operating, and that tribunals to try alleged crimes in troubled areas such as Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia were still rare. "There is only one way in which criminal re-

sponsibility can be brought home - that's by prosecution in a national court."

On Wednesday Professor Greenwood cited the international Convention against Torture 1984, incorporated into English law in 1988, as the basis for his argument that there is worldwide jurisdiction for prosecuting torture allegations, and that former heads of state have no immunity. He

also pointed to a long history of judicial decisions which, he argued, demonstrated those principles, including the agreements that established the Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal, a 1954 report of the International Law Commission, and the statute of the proposed international criminal court.

More than a hundred of General Pinochet's supporters yesterday gathered near the

rented home on the Wentworth estate in Surrey where he is living under the conditions of his bail and were addressed by his wife, Lucia. Through a loudspeaker she thanked them for coming all the way to Britain to "express personally your belief in the values of freedom and dignity that inspire Chileans".

The lords' hearing continues on Monday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Thief seen on TV is jailed

A thief who was spotted by his victim six years later on a television show was jailed for two years yesterday.

John Parsons had stolen jewellery and antiques worth £60,000 after offering to help Pamela McMahon, an American businesswoman, to move house in London. She spotted him when he appeared on *This Morning* as a gay rights campaigner and rang the police. Parsons, 44, of Manchester, was found guilty of theft at Southwark Crown Court.

PC found guilty

A police officer was found guilty of indecently assaulting two women. Barry Richardson, 39, of King's Lynn, was given conditional bail by Norwich Crown Court. Sentence was adjourned until February 12.

Retrial ordered

A police photographer was cleared at Preston Crown Court of indecently assaulting two women. Peter Sayward, 43, of Lytham, Lancashire, faces a retrial on a similar charge of taking a full-frontal picture of a female assault victim.

Royal eviction

The Prince of Wales has joined West Country landowners in legal moves to evict travellers from Duchy of Cornwall property. About 20 caravans and 30 vehicles have been parked near Stoke sub Hamdon, Somerset, since October.

Lights out

The beacon at Beachy Head, which has warned shipping for 171 years, has gone out after the recent cliff fall damaged the mains cable. A foghorn has also been cut off. The lighthouse is operating on an emergency lamp.

Trout break out

Trout swam through gardens and along the roads of an estate in Cwmaman, South Wales, after a trout farm flooded in heavy rain and a run-off culvert became blocked. Many of the fish were eventually washed into a river.

Judge discharges juror for using mobile phone

BY FRANCES GIBBS, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A JUROR was discharged by a judge yesterday after he learnt that she had taken a mobile telephone call while deliberating on a case.

The young mother was overheard by an usher making baby-sitting arrangements with her brother from the adjoining room, where she was trying to reach a verdict on a case involving three men and a woman accused of physical abuse of mentally handicapped adults at a home.

The jury had already been out for 3½ hours on Wednesday afternoon when the usher went into their room at Exeter Crown Court to tell them that they could be sent home for the night. By law, a jury should be isolated during their deliberations "in a private and convenient place".

Judge Graham Neville, discharging the juror, who had sat through eight days of the

trial, told the remaining 11 members of the panel that mobile telephones were an increasing problem for the courts. "I have discharged the lady juror with the mobile phone," he said. "We do not know what to do about mobile phones. People are told not to use them in court, but they are everywhere now, and we cannot take something away from them that is their property, just ask them not to use it."

"I am sure the juror did not do anything improper, but we have to be on the safe side."

A spokesman for the Lord Chancellor's Department said that courts routinely had signs up saying that mobile telephones should be switched off or, in some cases, handed in.

In March last year, a judge ordered a court reporter to be taken to the cells when his mobile telephone went off in the middle of a trial. In November

1997 a BBC reporter was ordered out of court in South Africa, where he was covering the Earl Spencer divorce case, after his mobile telephone rang.

In yesterday's case, the judge asked the remaining jurors to continue their consideration of the trial involving three care homes in Tooting, Devon.

Donald Lee, 48, denies seven counts of ill-treating one female and three male patients in his guardianship. Diane Baxter, 51, denies two counts of ill-treating two female patients. David Tudor-Poole, 30, denies six counts of ill-treating four female and two male patients. Ivan Rowlands, 52, denies ill-treating one female patient.

The charges followed a joint investigation by police and Devon social services after complaints by relatives.

Warning over gene weapon for ethnic cleansing

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

WEAPONS capable of ethnic cleansing could become a reality within ten years, with the information needed to make them being available on the Internet, the British Medical Association said yesterday.

Current research aimed at developing drugs to cure serious diseases such as cancer, would make it possible to create a "delivery system" for biological weapons able to target specific groups of people with a killer virus, said Sir William Asscher, chairman of the BMA's board of science. "Science which is being used for benign purposes can be put to malign use."

Vivienne Nathanson, head of ethics at the BMA, said that, as knowledge of human genetic make-up increased, it would be possible to target very specific groups. Height, skin and eye colour were all factors that could be identified and a biological weapon could then be created to harm only people with those genes.

Work on the Human Genome Project, which aims to identify all human genes and map them by 2005, will make it possible to be very specific about what genes make up each individual. It is also now scientifically agreed that "races" do not exist: certain groups merely have higher concentrations of some genes.

Diseases such as cancer are caused by genes that have an abnormal structure. Genetic therapies are being developed that enable drugs to be designed so that they only attack the unhealthy genes. In the treatment a gene is introduced that recognises the unhealthy cells, triggering the release of a virus or poison that destroys the cancer. Healthy cells are left untouched.

The genetic weapon would work in an identical way, recognising victims by their genetic make-up and then releasing a virus that killed them. Dr Nathanson said the information would be available on the Internet and the drugs could be made in small laboratories. Terrorists as well as states could use the technology.

Biotechnology, Weapons and Humanity, BMJ Bookshop, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP: £14

Recycling clue to evolution

BY NICK NUTTALL

THE mystery of how the elephant developed its trunk, the deer its antlers and the giraffe its neck may have been solved by scientists.

Researchers believe that a tiny genetic trick, common to all animals, can lead to a bewildering array of shapes and forms, from extravagant furs and elaborate shells to the colour of butterflies' wings.

It was previously thought that animals would have needed

to evolve new genes, but findings by a team at the University of Madison-Wisconsin indicate that nature simply re-orders genetic circuits in new ways. Their conclusions, in the journal *Science*, come from a study of wing-making genes in fruit flies and two different species of butterfly from North America and East Africa.

They traced the genetic circuitry that governs wing development and colour, and found that genes had been recycled to create new pigmentation by

switching on a new range of enzymes or biological catalysts.

David Keys, a member of the team, said: "Evolution is working by integrating sets of things it already has. You are using a circuit over and over again." Sean Carroll, a molecular biologist and the team's leader, said that the genes used to make spots on butterfly wings were the same as the ones used to develop limbs in animals. The difference was the way in which parts of the gene were switched on.

P&O Stena
LINE

DOVER TO CALAIS

FROM **£95** RETURN
IN 1999

(CAR & UP TO 9 PASSENGERS)

'APEX 99'	1 January to 30 June		1 July to 23 December	
	Book & Pay by 31 March 1999	5 Day Return	Flexible Return	Flexible Return
		£95	£155	£105
				£165

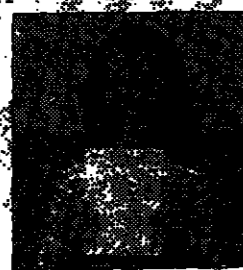
Information and Booking Hotline: 087 0600 0600 or see your local travel agent.

Motorhomes/minibuses and transit fares are subject to a £25 return supplement. Book and Pay in advance. £30 cancellation fee. Offer subject to restricted space. Offer cannot be combined with any other offer and replaces any previous APEX fares. Flexible return qualifies for journeys over 120 hours.

CORRECTION

Jack Straw asks us to make clear that he obtained permission for his daughter Charlotte to be away from school on a family holiday (Diary, January 5). Charlotte has passed the age when she is required to attend school compulsorily.

"I believe all children can enjoy success with Kumon Maths"



Do you want your child to develop greater speed, accuracy and fluency with maths?

Do you want to improve your child's level of concentration?

Do you want to boost your child's confidence and self esteem?

Kumon can help!

Kumon is helping thousands already!

Kumon is suitable for all ages and abilities, and is studied by 20,000 students of over 350 Study Centres nationwide.

FREE ENROLMENT
SAVE £15

For a free information pack please call

FREEPHONE 0800 854 714

KUMON
MATHS
SUCCESS YOUR CHILD CAN COUNT ON

*To take advantage of this offer you must enrol between 21st January and 25th March 1999 inclusive. This offer is subject to availability and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Tuition fees are charged at £28 per month.

HALF PRICE SALE

Magnet

Harvey 'jumps gun' on Lib Dem rivals

MP accused of ignoring order not to campaign for party leadership until June, reports Jill Sherman

THE campaign for the leadership of the Liberal Democrats began in acrimony yesterday when Nick Harvey, one of the leading contenders, was accused of jumping the starting gun.

All MPs were told by the Chief Whip on Wednesday, after Paddy Ashdown announced he was standing down, that they could not declare as candidates until after the European elections in early June.

But, late on Wednesday night, "friends" of Nick Harvey, the little known campaigns chief, started talking up his chances and by yesterday it was clear that an unofficial "shadow" campaign team was up and running.

Mr Harvey appeared on Radio 4's Today programme and his friends continued to extol his virtues, insisting that as the least known candidate he needed to raise his profile.

"There is no doubt that Nick Harvey is a serious contender," one said. "He has to make it clear that he has the credentials to be leader when he gets to the point of declaring."

Mr Harvey's friends pointed out his determination to car-

ry on with Paddy Ashdown's policies, continue links with Labour and emphasised, in what was seen as a clear repudiation, that he would accept joining the euro if the economic circumstances were right. Mr Harvey was the only Liberal Democrat MP to vote against the Maastricht treaty.

Allies of some of the leading candidates argued that the rule against declaring should be dropped as it was almost impossible not to start campaigning. There were also some grumbles in Scotland against a protracted leadership campaign, with calls for an election before May to stop accusations of a lame-duck leader during the Scottish parliament elections.

Menzies Campbell, the party's foreign affairs spokesman, appeared to pay lip-service to the rules by appearing on television and radio yesterday. There had been reports that Mr Campbell, 57, seen as the elder statesman, might decide not to stand. But yesterday the former Olympic champion said: "I still fancy my chances over 100 yards against any of the parliamentary party."

Mr Campbell said that he



Harvey: shadow campaign team up and running

would be consulting senior colleagues and his constituency, but would abide by the request not to campaign. Some colleagues were surprised at his decision to all but declare himself, but others suggested that he might be testing the water.

They pointed out that Mr Campbell would probably only enter the race if he had a good chance of winning, unlike the other candidates who could be putting down markers for future contests.

Charles Kennedy, the front-runner, spent the whole day trying to avoid the cameras. Colleagues pointed out that he had been preparing the ground for a leadership election for some time and had tried to widen his constituency beyond his Scottish seat,

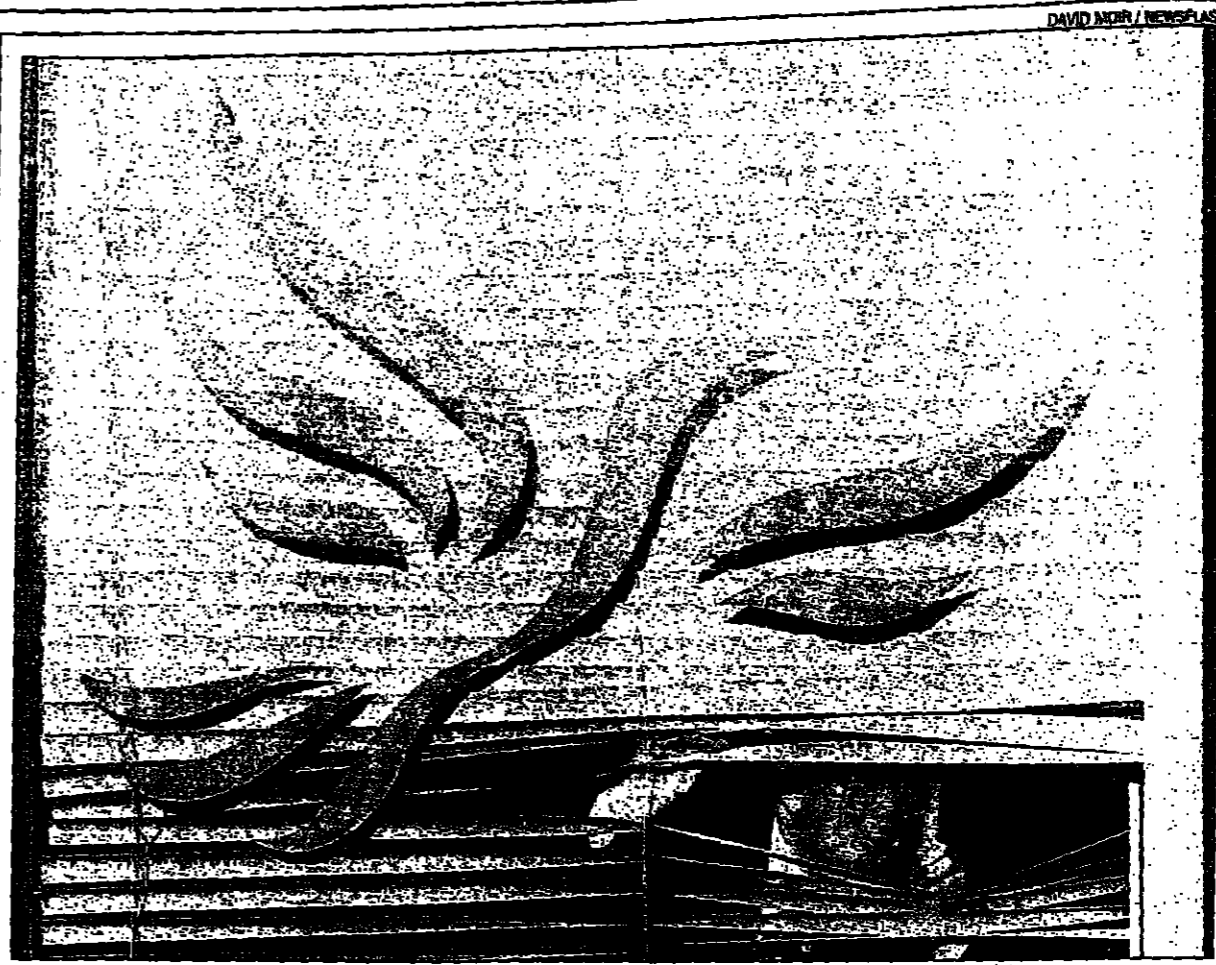
aware that the bulk of party membership is in the South East and South West.

Mr Ashdown also intervened effectively to rule out Simon Hughes, the health spokesman. Mr Hughes was one of two MPs who voted against Mr Ashdown when he announced that he intended to extend links between the Liberal Democrats and Labour.

Mr Ashdown said: "The chances of anybody standing who will succeed who goes against what has been the established democratic will of the party, I don't think is terribly good. But in the end it is for the party to decide."

Mr Hughes refused to be pinned down on whether he would stand, but indicated that he might also be interested in the job of London mayor. "Our party has to make a decision as to who its mayoral candidate is. Fundamentally, at the moment the date for that election is also the summer of this year and I guess that our party would not want the same person to be its mayoral candidate and to be its leader, so read into that what you will," he said. He declined to disclose his future position on Lib-Lab links.

Other potential candidates who refused to rule themselves out yesterday were Don Foster and Malcolm Bruce, though both are considered long shots.



Jim Wallace, Scottish Liberal Democrats leader, after launching their conference agenda in Edinburgh yesterday. He warned leadership contenders against hijacking the Scottish and Welsh election campaigns for their own gain.

Contest risks veering off-course

THE contest for the leadership of the Liberal Democrats is in danger of being fought on a false basis. The media focus so far has been on the attitudes of possible candidates towards the Blair Government. But that is a secondary

issue. The six-month, unofficial and official campaign is likely to tell us very little about Lib-Labbery. The candidates will all stress the importance of an independent party with its distinctive identity and policies. They will play

down, to varying degrees, the advantages of co-operation and of pluralist politics. They will all be running, if not against Tony Blair, then at least to show they can stand up to him.

That is hardly surprising since leadership elections are politics at their most tribal. Moreover, for the next three to four months, local Lib Dems will be indulging in their greatest passion, campaigning for the local, Scottish, Welsh and European elections. In many big northern cities and towns, the Lib Dems are hoping for gains from Labour to offset likely losses in Tory strongholds in the South.

What the candidates say will be little guide to what they do if they become leader. Apart from Simon Hughes, the likely runners all broadly agree on "constructive opposition". They recognise the gains from the talks on constitutional reform. Several MPs, as well as local activists, were worried about

murder and, from two months ago over the expansion of the remit of the Joint Cabinet Committee, particularly the possibility of talks about health and education. This has now been clarified and the principle of co-operation was reaffirmed a week ago with the extension of talks to include European security and defence.

However, joint consultation has probably reached its high point for the Parliament with a slim chance now of a referendum on proportional representation this side of the general election. There are powerful

forces in both parties opposed to closer links and the departure of Paddy Ashdown may make Mr Blair more reluctant to take political risks over relations with the Lib Dems. The Prime Minister respects Menzies Campbell but has little time for many of the other candidates.

Co-operation is likely to continue on the same basis, but there is unlikely to be any big leap forward. The leadership election may have less impact than is commonly assumed.

What really matters is which new leader will help the Lib Dems get most MPs at the next election. How far they can hold their present 46 seats — as well as the size of any Labour majority — will largely determine whether the Lib Dems are big players after the election. Charles Kennedy

has the most obvious appeal to voters as an adept and witty media performer with a shrewd political brain.

But that is a source of suspicion among some activists. Mr Kennedy also has to live down his reputation as a lightweight on policy with a patchy record at Westminster. Some may also question his background in the SDP and wonder whether, post-devolution, a national party leader can come from Scotland.

The Liberal Democrats have a choice: do they want a leader with a possible national appeal or do they want someone who will reinforce the prejudices and interests of local activists? Mr Ashdown's great contribution was to give a national focus and ambitions to a locally rooted party.

Ashdown home to a warm welcome

BY SIMON DE BRUELLES

THE happiest person in Paddy Ashdown's Yeovil constituency yesterday could have been the man who put it on the map. Mr Ashdown's ties to his constituency were closer than many MPs', despite the extra demands on his time. He held Saturday morning surgeries and continued the doorstep campaigning which in 1983 helped him to prise the seat from the Tory incumbent.

As he made his way back to Somerset town last night, Mr Ashdown said: "I just want to say thank you to my constituents: they have been astonishing. They have given me unfailing support all through the 15 years, especially when I was wrong. Now when I get in I will take my shoes off and have a large glass of whisky."

He did not know how much spare time he would have in future. "I don't know if I will be able to just sit around. One of Jane's girlfriends said: 'You have got to keep him away from the cookery books.'"

Soundbite supremo Kennedy falls silent

BY JAMES LANDALE

CHARLES KENNEDY might be the best known Liberal Democrat after Paddy Ashdown but yesterday he broke the habit of a lifetime and spent the day avoiding the media.

The day of the broadcast studies was struck by unusual bashfulness. As his leadership rivals made their presence felt, the frontrunner was noted by his absence.

Journalists stalked the corridors of Westminster. The broadcasters hung their heads in frustration, deprived of that staple of television news: the Kennedy soundbite.

In fact, the MP for Ross, Sney and Inverness West was dealing with constituency work in his Victoria flat. His office insisted that he was not organising a leadership campaign.

At lunchtime, he slipped quietly into the Commons to discuss constituency engagements. Then, a breakthrough. He was forced to vote in the Commons at 3.30pm. He sidled into the lobbies, was spotted by journalists and fled down a corridor.

Tracked down, he said he was not busy campaigning. He was busy voting, taking telephone calls and preparing speeches. All he would say was: "The Liberal Democrats should focus on one thing and one thing alone for the foreseeable future and that's all the local, Scottish, Welsh and European elections."

DIXONS
SAVE UP TO £50
ON SELECTED CLEARANCE PCs WITH THIS VOUCHER
HURRY! LIMITED STOCK

PRINTERS
SALE UP TO £20

Canon COLOUR BULLET PRINTER
Up to 3000 dpi
Model C100
Was £129.99
Now £89.99 **SAVE £40**

LEXMARK
BULLET COLOUR PRINTER
Up to 3000 dpi
Model C100
Was £129.99
Now £99.99 **SAVE £30**

HEWLETT PACKARD
COLOUR BULLET PRINTER
Up to 3000 dpi
Model C100
Was £129.99
Now £119.99 **SAVE £10**

EPSON PHOTO REAL PRINTER
Perfect Picture
Model STYLUS 440
Was £129.99
Now £129.99 **SAVE £10**

EPSON PHOTO REAL PRINTER
Perfect Picture
Model STYLUS 440
Was £129.99
Now £159.99 **SAVE £20**

EPSON PHOTO QUALITY PRINTER
Up to 1440 dpi
Model STYLUS 700
Was £179.99
Now £179.99 **SAVE £20**

HEWLETT PACKARD
PHOTO QUALITY PRINTER
Up to 1200 dpi
Model 750
Was £189.99
Now £189.99 **SAVE £10**

EPSON ADVANCED PHOTO REAL PRINTER
Up to 1440 dpi
Model STYLUS 700
Was £199.99
Now £199.99 **SAVE £20**

HANDHELD COMPUTERS
SAVE UP TO £50

ROLODEX PC COMPANION
A500
Model A500
Was £99.99
Now £99.99 **SAVE £30**

3COM PC COMPANION AND ORGANISER
Model 3000
Was £129.99
Now £129.99 **SAVE £20**

PSION 233 HANDHELD COMPUTER
Model 233
Was £199.99
Now £199.99 **SAVE £30**

3COM ORGANISER AND PC COMPANION
Model 3000
Was £199.99
Now £199.99 **SAVE £50**

PHILIPS WINDOWS CE PALM PC
Model 1000
Was £249.99
Now £249.99 **SAVE £30**

PSION 233 HANDHELD COMPUTER
Model 233
Was £369.99
Now £369.99 **SAVE £30**

HEWLETT PACKARD
JOURNAL 200 WINDOWS CE
Model 200
Was £799.99
Now £799.99 **NEW**

PRICE - WE CAN'T BE BEATEN
Owns Price Check - If you find the same offer elsewhere at a local store, we'll refund the difference. This product must be new, complete and available for immediate delivery.

3 WAYS TO BUY
OVER 430 STORES NATIONWIDE
ORDER HOTLINE 0800 68 28 68
ON-LINE SHOP: www.dixons.co.uk
Part of the Dixons Group

PC PLAN
EXAMPLE: Cash price £299
Monthly payments of £25.00
Total amount payable £299.00
Direct Debit only

NO DEPOSIT INTEREST
FREE OPTION ON ALL PRODUCTS OVER £200
Interest is charged on the cash price of the product if you do not take the interest-free option.
All terms subject to credit check. Written credit conditions available on request from Dixons. *Excludes HP, Dell, Apple, and other branded products. **Excludes cash and credit cards. ***Excludes mobile phones and other small appliances.

Dixons
sale
LOWEST PC PRICES
ON THE HIGH STREET

PC AND PRINTER PLUS FREE SCANNER
PC: CYRIX M1300 PROCESSOR MULTIMEDIA PC
PRINTER: LEXMARK C1000
SCANNER: EPSON 5900
Was £599
Now £599 **INC. VAT**

LOWEST EVER PRICED INTERNET READY PACKARD BELL PC
PC: CYRIX M1300 PROCESSOR
PRINTER: LEXMARK C1000
SCANNER: EPSON 5900
Was £699
Now £699 **INC. VAT**

PC PLUS FREE PRINTER AND SCANNER
PC: INTEL CELERON 333MHz PROCESSOR
PRINTER: LEXMARK C1000
SCANNER: EPSON 5900
Was £899
Now £899 **INC. VAT**

LAPTOPS
LOWEST EVER PRICED SONY LAPTOP
SONY VAIO NOTEBOOK COMPUTER
INTEL PENTIUM III 300MHz PROCESSOR
Was £1199
Now £1199 **SAVE £200**

PRICE CHECK
PRICE - WE CAN'T BE BEATEN
Every week we compare prices in the national press and you know you can't beat us.

SCANNERS
SAVE UP TO £30

MICROTEK 2000 SCANNER
Up to 3000 dpi
Model 2000
Was £49.99
Now £49.99 **SAVE £10**

COMPEYE SCANNER
Up to 3000 dpi
Model 2000
Was £89.99
Now £89.99 **SAVE £10**

FLUSTEK TURBO SCANNER
Up to 3000 dpi
Model 2000
Was £99.99
Now £99.99 **SAVE £30**

MODEMS
SALE UP TO £10

PHONIC EXTERNAL MODEM
Up to 56Kbps
Model 2000
Was £69.99
Now £69.99 **SAVE £10**

DIAMOND SUPER MODEM
Up to 56Kbps
Model 2000
Was £79.99
Now £79.99 **SAVE £10**

HAYES EXTERNAL MODEM
Up to 56Kbps
Model 2000
Was £119.99
Now £119.99 **SAVE £10**

MICE
SALE UP TO 50%

PRIMAX MOUSE
Up to 3000 dpi
Model 2000
Was £9.99
Now £9.99 **SAVE £3**

Microsoft mouse
Up to 3000 dpi
Model 2000
Was £24.99
Now £24.99 **SAVE 50%**

GAMEPLAY & GRAPHICS CARDS
SAVE UP TO £30

SAITEK CYBERNET JOYSTICK
Up to 3000 dpi
Model 2000
Was £39.99
Now £39.99 **SAVE £10**

TECHNICALS WOODBROS
Up to 3000 dpi
Model 2000
Was £79.99
Now £79.99 **SAVE £30**

Microsoft JOYSTICK
Up to 3000 dpi
Model 2000
Was £99.99
Now £99.99 **SAVE £30**

ORGANISERS
FREE CASE

Packard Bell PERSONAL ORGANISER
Up to 3000 dpi
Model 2000
Was £29.99
Now £29.99 **SAVE £10**

Packard Bell DELUXE ORGANISER
Up to 3000 dpi
Model 2000
Was £34.99
Now £34.99 **SAVE £5**

free serve
for free unlimited internet access
Pick up a free disc in-store today!

Dixons
There's a Great Deal going on

0% INTEREST
29.99% APR

29.99% APR

Dobson accused of seeking scapegoats

By Helen Rumbelow

THE Government's criticism of nurse training was an attempt to make ward staff the scapegoats for the troubles of the NHS, a nursing leader said yesterday.

Christine Hancock, head of the Royal College of Nursing, said that nurses had suffered a "night of the long knives". She was responding to comments from Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, who said last week that some young people were deterred from a nursing career by the emphasis on academic training rather than basic caring skills.

Ms Hancock said that the NHS needed staff with the most up-to-date medical knowledge, as well as decent salaries. The chronic shortage of nurses could not be blamed on the trend towards college courses rather than hospital training. "Some assume that you can't be well educated and a caring person with practical skills. Clearly that's rubbish," she told a conference in London.

"The issue of less education

for nurses is a nonsense: nurses are hungry for more education. In fact, it is more education that helps us to recruit more nurses."

There are 12,000 nursing vacancies. "The world needs someone to blame. In something akin to the 'night of the long knives', it seems that nurse education is now the scapegoat for a wounded NHS," Ms Hancock said.

She rejected the idea of increasing the number of less-qualified carers in hospitals.

The shortfall in staff to perform basic tasks such as bathing and feeding was best covered by employing more highly qualified nurses rather than hospital care assistants who perform routine tasks, she said. This was more cost-effective in the long run as it had been proved that skilled nurses got patients better quicker.

High levels of skill are not cheap on the pay bill, but it makes a real difference. Studies have proved that with a low ratio of qualified to un-

qualified staff, patients run a higher risk of developing avoidable complications.

Ms Hancock did, however, admit that there were difficulties with Project 2000, the training system introduced in the 1980s which involves a three-year diploma course rather than the previous system of more practical training in hospital nursing schools.

Last week Mr Dobson suggested increasing the numbers of student nurses on wards. But he was urged to be cautious by Sue Norman, head of the UK Central Council, the nurses' regulatory body.

"We are very concerned about whether nurse education is appropriate," said Ms Norman, "which is why we set up a commission to give us recommendations on change in June. Project 2000 is up to 15 years old and we need to re-think it, but we want to be very careful that we don't give a knee-jerk reaction."

She believed that there was too strong a divide between registered general nurses and healthcare assistants.

NHS STAFF COMPLAIN OF BULLYING

A survey of NHS staff has found that bullying is a widespread problem, with one in five staff reporting being bullied at work. The survey, conducted by the Royal College of Nursing, found that bullying was most common among hospital staff, with 25% reporting being bullied. The survey also found that bullying was most common among staff who had been in the NHS for more than 10 years, with 30% reporting being bullied. The survey also found that bullying was most common among staff who had been in the NHS for more than 10 years, with 30% reporting being bullied.



Gary Glitter yesterday. He wore his sunglasses throughout the four-minute hearing

Glitter in court on child sex charges

GARY GLITTER made his first appearance in a Crown Court yesterday to face a series of sex and child pornography allegations.

The 54-year-old pop star, who has a home in Wedmore, Somerset, was driven to the court in Bristol in his Mercedes coupe, which has blacked-out windows. He wore a black suit and leather coat and a black wig.

He kept his sunglasses on throughout the four-minute hearing, during which he spoke only to confirm his real name as Paul Francis Gadd. He cupped his ear to help him to hear the submissions made by his lawyer.

Glitter, a father of two, faces eight charges of sexual offences involving a girl and 50 charges relating to indecent photographs of children. He was arrested in 1997 after police examined a computer he had taken to a shop for repairs. The allegations date back as far as 1980.

Yesterday the case was adjourned for two months and he was remanded on conditional bail.

Men suffer equally on violence in the home

By Stewart Tendler
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

MEN are just as likely to be victims of domestic violence as women, according to the results of a Home Office survey issued yesterday. The research showed that 4.2 per cent of men and the same percentage of women said they were assaulted last year.

Male victims were likely to be under 25, working part-time and in households where there were financial difficulties. They may have had a long-term illness or disability. The women victims were also young and more at risk if they were at home with children or separated from their partners.

The research also said, however, that women were twice as likely to have been injured, three times more likely to have faced serious threats and were more likely to have been assaulted at least three times.

The study suggested that the risk of domestic violence was increasing and one reason might be that young people had more relationships, living with different partners.

The survey, based on the British Crime Survey for 1996, concluded there were 6.6 million incidents of domestic violence in 1995.

Accurate radiation aids cancer sufferers

By Ian Murray
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A NEW radiotherapy for prostate cancer which significantly reduces the risk of side-effects has successfully completed its trials and could be used to improve treatment for many other cancers.

The treatment, which is known as conformal radiotherapy, shapes the radiation beams to the irregular outlines of a tumour, confining its effect almost entirely to the diseased tissue.

Prostate patients given conventional radiotherapy are at high risk of developing rectal inflammation and bleeding. This can be so severe that it is necessary to limit the radiation, which means the cancer is not properly destroyed.

The new technique is being developed by Institute of Cancer Research, scientists, who have conducted trials on 225 patients at the Royal Marsden Hospital in Sutton, Surrey, and Fulham, London. The *Lancet* reports the project was partly supported by funding raised for the institute by The Times Christmas appeal in 1997, which was so successful that additional funds were able to be directed into research such as this.

How much do you love me?



THIS MUCH?

For just £1 a week, you can sponsor an abandoned dog like me today. You'll be helping the National Canine Defence League to give me, or another dog who may never be rehomed, a safe and happy life at one of its rescue centres. You'll also help the NCDL to care for other needy dogs. In return, you'll get a sponsor's certificate, updates on your dog - and unconditional love from your new friend. Now, isn't that a pound well spent?

Yes, I'd love to sponsor a dog

☐ Please send me my FREE poster guide so I can choose a dog to sponsor today.

Mr/Ms/Mrs/Ms/Ms/Ms

Address

Postcode

Please return this form to Sponsor A Dog, NCDL, FREEPOST LON6996, PO Box 7022, London E1 8BR.

Registered Charity No. 27553



DISCOVER THE TRUE
COST OF BUYING AND OWNING
A NEW CAR WITH THE

DAEWOO VALUE GUIDE

STARTING PRICE

Delivery, Number Plates

Road Tax and Vehicle
First Registration Fee

3 Year/36,000
mile servicing

3 Year/60,000 mile
comprehensive warranty

3 years roadside assistance

Dual airbags

Central Locking

Power Steering

Metallic Paint

DAEWOO VALUE

Total Vs Daewoo Lanos

Daewoo Lanos 1.4S 3 door	Ford Fiesta 1.25 LX 3 door	Renault Clio RT 1.4 3 door	Rover 200 series 214i 8V 3 door	Nissan Almera 1.4 Equation 3 door
£7,995	£9,250	£9,375	£10,275	£11,220
included	£525	£500	included	included
included	£175	£175	£175	£175
included up to 60,000 miles	£281	£304	£386	£510
included	£310	£355	£535	included
included	included in warranty	included in warranty	included in warranty	£252
included	£500 inc. ABS	£200	£350	n/a
included	included	included	£200	n/a
included	included	included	included	included
included	£245	£210	£300	£240
£7,995	£11,286	£11,119	£12,221	£12,397
-	+£3,291	+£3,124	+£4,226	+£4,402

Because Daewoo deal direct we can afford to give you much more as standard and we also have clear fixed pricing. As you can see.

To obtain the figures above we collected all the current competitor brochures and contacted 3 competitor dealers for each car. Competitors' prices are correct at December 1st 1998 and do not include any short term offers that may be available on competitor cars. Warranties listed do not necessarily provide the same level of cover. All prices include VAT. Prices for our cars range from £6,495 to £17,820.

For more information on the Daewoo Leganza, Nubira, Lanos or Matiz ranges call us free on 0800 666 222.

SAVINGS BY DEALING DIRECT? THAT'LL BE THE DAEWOO VALUE

BY SEAN HILLEN IN BUCHAREST AND ROGER BOYES

A policeman confronts marchers in Costesti

Gavril Dejeu, the Interior Minister, has ordered barricades to be put up along the



University Square. On the second occasion they forced the resignation of the then Prime Minister, Petre Roman. The latter, the leader of the Social Democrats, a government coalition partner, yesterday appealed to the marching miners to disperse and go back home.

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

"The painting has great value in the art market, but it is unlikely to be sold on by a

Mussolini: fatal weapon was sought for years

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

moment of the new order, an event which helped to enable the Italians to move out of the shadow of fascism — in which many of them had assented — to postwar democracy.”

Giuseppe Tibis, the deputy prosecutor at Modena, said he had ordered a ballistic report “To me it is just another firearm whose owner we have to trace,” he said. “The rest is up to the historians.”

La Repubblica said it was understood locally that a partisan fighter from the Modena region had taken the shot back to his hometown after the shooting.

Zurich

From
£39

3 daily flights from London-Luton

All **easyJet** fares are one-way, so you can fly back whenever you like. Each one-way flight can be changed for a fee of just £10 per passenger plus any difference to the new fare.

www.easyJet.com
0870 6000000

All fares include airport tax. On selected flights, subject to availability.

easyJet



Kosovo peace monitor defies Serb ban

Instead of leaving the country as ordered, William Walker is fighting back, writes Tom Walker in Sipolje

THAT of the international monitoring mission in Kosovo defied a Serbian government order to leave Yugoslavia yesterday. Instead, he took journalists on a tour of army positions that he said were in breach of the ceasefire.

William Walker, had intended to fly to Belgrade to confront his accusers but, on advice from Wesley Clark, NATO's Supreme Commander, he decided it was too risky. It would have given Yugoslav authorities the chance to deny his presence and the mission's right to be in the country, confident Mr Walker himself had strong new evidence to back his assertion that Serbian security forces were responsible for the Racak massacre. There was speculation among monitors that incriminating police radio messages may have been picked up during observations of the operation that left 45 ethnic Albanians dead, most with bullet wounds to the head.

Milosevic has pushed himself into a corner, and he suddenly realises he doesn't even have the support of Russia,"

said an aide to the ambassador.

Mr Walker, with 37 years of foreign service and experience of angry Serb minorities from Croatia, must know, however, that he has embarked on a risky course. He was meant to have left Yugoslavia by 5pm, after the authorities had extended his stay by 24 hours, and his office has been inundated with threatening telephone calls from Serbs.

The previous evening, Mr Walker had entertained the international press corps in Pristina, and laughed off suggestions that the event should be called "the last supper".

He said he had the full backing of all 54 nations in the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and had received many letters of support for his defiance of President Milosevic's Yugoslav regime.

"I've had a letter from Kofi Annan, and I guess that kind of represents the world," he said. Afterwards he was forced to leave the restaurant by a back exit as Serb skinheads lingered menacingly in

his car park. The American has a few bodyguards from special forces, but largely relies on Albanian staff for protection. No one in the Pristina OSCE mission is armed.

Mr Walker has remained steadfastly unrepentant since he pinned responsibility for the Racak deaths on the police on Saturday. "I did not blame the Serbs, I blamed the security forces," he told journalists. Asked if the OSCE mission would have been worthwhile if it was closed down, he said: "We have shed some light on what's going on here."

Vuk Draskovic, the former opposition leader now in alliance with Mr Milosevic, was said to have been involved in talks with Russian leaders to find a face-saving deal for the Yugoslav Government that would allow Mr Walker to stay.

A Serbian deputy premier, Tomislav Nikolic, said that because of "diplomatic moves", Mr Walker's departure "will be delayed so that he could be given the chance not to be thrown out but to resign" — ostensibly for health reasons.



William Walker outside a Yugoslav barracks yesterday near the northern town of Podujevo as he took journalists on a tour of army positions

The controversy overshadowed the arrival in the Kosovo capital of Finnish forensic scientists, who began their examinations of the Albanian bodies forcibly removed by police from Racak mosque on Monday. The Finns have portable X-ray machines to study bullet

wounds — equipment that had not been available locally. Helena Ranta, the team leader, said that within ten days, the Racak mystery could be cleared up.

Mr Walker's persistence was matched by that of the police, who continued another

offensive in the north of Kosovo on the outskirts of the industrial town of Mitrovica. The streets of Sipolje village lay deserted as hundreds of officers in battle fatigues pushed back KLA guerrillas in neighbouring Vagadin and settlements to the southwest.

Reporters heard tank shells fired in the morning, and an army anti-aircraft gun was parked in the middle of Sipolje in the afternoon. There were no reports of casualties.

Police appear to have been flushing out a KLA cell they blame for the death of a col-

league, and serious injuries to others, a week ago. A CNN camera crew recorded a round-up of male suspects, in an operation bearing troubling similarities to the start of the Racak operation. Few OSCE monitors were in evidence.

US calls for Nato airstrike threat against Milosevic

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

TH Americans are calling for Nato to issue an ultimatum to President Milosevic to force him to comply with all the demands over Kosovo or face airstrikes.

Although the ultimatum option has not yet been approved by Nato members, a Foreign Office official confirmed that this was now one of the priority topics under discussion at alliance headquarters in Brussels. Nato sources said Washington was not the only alliance member pushing for an ultimatum.

Britain is expected to support the idea, although the Foreign Office official said it would not be practical unless a proper political strategy had been agreed. The ultimatum option will be studied at today's meeting of the six-nation Contact Group in London. However, with Russia opposed to any military action, airstrikes will not be on the Contact Group's agenda.

The Foreign Office official said it would be important to spell out Nato's demands to Belgrade. They would have to include, the official said, complete compliance with the October peace agreement reached with Richard Holbrooke, the American special envoy, including the withdrawal of most of the Serb forces to their barracks, the rescinding of the expul-

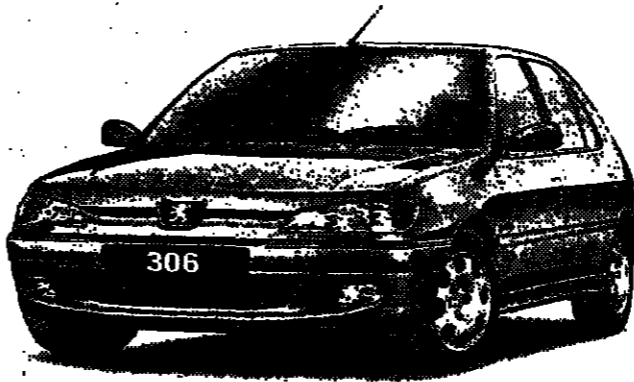
sion order on William Walker, the American head of the verification team in Kosovo, and free access for the war crimes tribunal to investigate last Friday's massacre of 45 Albanians.

A strategy is expected to be drawn up by the end of this weekend that could lead to a formal deadline being imposed on Belgrade next week. A Nato source said: "The alliance wants this resolved peacefully. For that to happen, Mr Milosevic has got to allow an independent investigation of the alleged massacre and that means allowing Judge Louise Arbour (chief prosecutor of the war crimes tribunal in The Hague) to head the inquiry."

France yesterday announced that it was sending an aircraft carrier to the Adriatic and redeploying 18 warplanes in response to the Kosovo crisis, and Germany sent eight Tornado fighters to an airbase in Italy to cut response time in case Nato does order a military strike.

Joschka Fischer, Germany's Foreign Minister, however, questioned the wisdom of using force to end the fighting, saying the limits to such tactics had been demonstrated by last month's American offensive in Iraq. "The use of force must be the last possible option," he said.

We've put on a lot, without piling on the pounds.



306 Meridian, from only £11,995*

With 2 Years 0% Finance* and 2 Years Free Insurance*.

What a spread! Just how many features can you squeeze into a car? The Peugeot 306 Meridian 1.4 Special Edition includes ABS brakes, power steering, electric sunroof*, remote control stereo radio/cassette, metallic paint and a leather trimmed interior. We've also found room for pop-up central locking, an engine immobiliser, electric front windows, heated door mirrors, driver's airbag and body coloured bumpers. Help yourself to 2 Years 0% Finance* and 2 Years Free Insurance* while you're at it. Shameful overindulgence? Perhaps. But the 306 Meridian cuts a sleek and stylish figure on the road. A distinctly lean £11,995* (Air-conditioned Meridian, from £12,345*). The 306 Meridian Special Edition. Truly, a car you'll love handling. Call 0345 306 306.



LOOKING FOR A SCHOOL?

John Catt Educational Ltd publish other guides covering British dependent Schools together with helpful advice and editorials for parents seeking preparatory, secondary or further education for their children.

- Which School? for A Levels and Education after Sixteen
- Which School? for Special Needs
- Boarding Schools & Colleges
- International Schools
- Preparatory Schools
- Which London Schools
- and other
- Which School Regional Guides

John Catt Educational Ltd
100, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT
Tel: 020 7638 1234
Fax: 020 7638 1235
Email: info@johncatt.co.uk
Web: www.johncatt.co.uk



Spectacular Grand Piano Sale
Superb ex rental Grand pianos at ridiculously low prices.
Get there early, this sale will NEVER be repeated.
This weekend starting at 9.30am both Saturday and Sunday at:
Chester Court, Albany St NW1

0171 935 8682



PRICES ARE ON THE ROAD AND APPLY TO 306 MERIDIAN 1.4 LITRE PETROL 5 DOOR WITH SUNROOF AT £11,995 AND 306 MERIDIAN 1.4 LITRE PETROL 5 DOOR WITH AIR CONDITIONING IN LIEU OF SUNROOF AT £12,345. TYPICAL 0% FINANCE EXAMPLE: 306 MERIDIAN 1.4 LITRE PETROL 5 DOOR WITH SUNROOF, ON THE ROAD PRICE* £11,995.00, DEPOSIT 90% £10,795.50, APR 0%, 24 MONTHLY PAYMENTS £248.50, TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE £11,995.50. OFFER SUBJECT TO STATUS, OVER 18S ONLY. A GUARANTEE MAY BE REQUIRED. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM PSA FINANCE PLC, VERNON HOUSE, SICKLAND AVENUE, LONDON W14 2DQ. 0% FINANCE IS AVAILABLE TO RETAIL BUYERS ONLY AND APPLIES TO ALL 306 MODELS EXCLUDING 306 GTI R. OFFER SUBJECT TO SATISFYING TERMS, CONDITIONS AND APPROVAL OF THE DISBURER AND APPLIES TO ALL 306 MERIDIAN MODELS EXCLUDING ESTATE. *AVAILABLE ON 306 MERIDIAN 1.4 LITRE PETROL 5 DOOR MODELS ONLY. *SERVICE INTERVALS ARE 2 YEARS OR 20,000 MILES FOR PETROL AND 2 YEARS OR 30,000 MILES FOR DIESEL VEHICLES. (APPLIES TO ALL VEHICLES FIRST REGISTERED FROM 1ST AUGUST 1998.) DETAILS CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. OFFER ENDS 31ST MARCH 1999.

Italians launch attack on Nelson

'Brutal' British hero slaughtered rebels, writes Richard Owen in Rome



Nelson, top, and his lover, Lady Hamilton

LORD NELSON was criticised yesterday by Italian historians, who branded him a war criminal who had used "brutal, bloodthirsty methods" to put down a revolt in Naples 200 years ago.

But British scholars defended the hero of Trafalgar, saying that his actions in Naples had to be understood "in the context of wider British strategic interests". Professor John Davis, who is writing an account of revolutionary Naples for Oxford University Press, said he understood Italian attitudes, but "anti-British sentiment" was misplaced.



Nelson's fleet in the Bay of Naples in 1799. Controversy rages over his role in helping to put down an anti-monarchist uprising, tarnishing his heroic reputation, Italians claim

At a three-day conference on the Jacobin revolution against the Bourbon rulers of Naples in 1799, Professor Gerardo Marotta, director of the Italian Institute of Philosophical Studies in Naples, said that it was time that Nelson's true role in executing the leaders of the revolt was "fully exposed".

Nelson had acted with great brutality, Professor Marotta, who describes himself as the last of the Neapolitan Jacobins, said. He added that Nelson had played a leading role in restoring the Bourbons, ending the 144-day republic by reneging on promises of safe conduct and engaging in "shame-

ful wholesale slaughter" of the revolutionaries.

Nelson arrived in Naples in 1793 with orders to help to forge an anti-French pact with King Ferdinand I and Queen Maria Carolina, the Bourbon monarchs. His Naples years are perhaps best remembered for his passionate affair with Emma Hamilton, wife of Sir William Hamilton, the British Ambassador. But Nelson also played a key political role: he supported the King and Queen when the French invaded early in 1799 and encouraged anti-monarchist forces

(led by disaffected noblemen) to stage a revolt.

Nelson took King Ferdinand and Queen Maria Carolina to safety in Palermo in his own flagship, and returned later to help monarchist forces led by Cardinal Fabrizio Ruffo to put down the uprising.

The conference, which is part of bicentenary celebrations marking the revolt, is being held at the Castel Sant'Elmo, the fortress on a hill above Naples where the routed revolutionaries took refuge.

Professor Davis, formerly Professor of History at War-

wick University and now at Connecticut University, said that there was particular anger over the fact that the defeated rebels were enticed out of the fortress after being assured by Cardinal Ruffo that they would be given safe passage. "But Nelson did not feel bound by this and had them arrested the moment they emerged defenceless," he said.

Anti-Nelson feeling focuses on the fate of Admiral Francesco Caracciolo, who had served the monarchy but switched sides to back the rebels. He was sentenced to life imprison-

ment after a court martial held on Nelson's orders.

Nelson changed the sentence to death by hanging from the yardarm and refused to allow the body to be taken down until sunset. It was thrown into the sea, weighted with cannon balls. The corpse was buried after being washed up on a beach. According to some scholars, Nelson's dislike of the admiral was fuelled not only by his treachery but also by the fact that he had once slighted Lady Hamilton by refusing to dance with her.

Giuseppe Galasso, a leading Naples historian, said that Queen Maria Carolina had written to Lady Hamilton from Palermo asking her to tell Nelson to put down the revolt "as if he were crushing a rebel city in Ireland".

"He didn't need to be asked twice," Professor Galasso said. "The result has left an indelible stain on the reputation of a man whom the British regard as a hero."

Professor Davis said that he had read all of Nelson's correspondence at the time of the revolt and "I don't think he had a very clear idea of what he

Japan telescope focuses on infant universe

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

JAPANESE scientists say that a new infra-red telescope, the biggest yet built, could help to solve the mystery of how life was created.

The £210 million telescope will give scientists the best view so far of the universe in its infancy, according to Motohide Tamura of Japan's National Astronomical Observatory. "What is most exciting is that we expect to be able to observe the birth of newly born galaxies," he said.

Called Subaru after the Japanese word for the star cluster

Pleiades, the telescope's large size was made possible by technological innovations. At its heart is an American-made reflector with a diameter of 8.2m (27ft), supported by Japanese computer-controlled arms to compensate for gravity and temperature variations. The system ensures that the flexible mirror — only 20cm (8in) thick — preserves a curvature of staggering precision. If sited in London, the telescope could pinpoint and measure precisely a tennis ball in Swindon.

The telescope, equipped with a highly accurate tracking system, will be able to lo-

cate stars in both the visible and infra-red wavelengths, greatly extending the limits of the observable universe.

Scientists in Japan say the Subaru will out-perform America's Hubble telescope —

NET LINKS

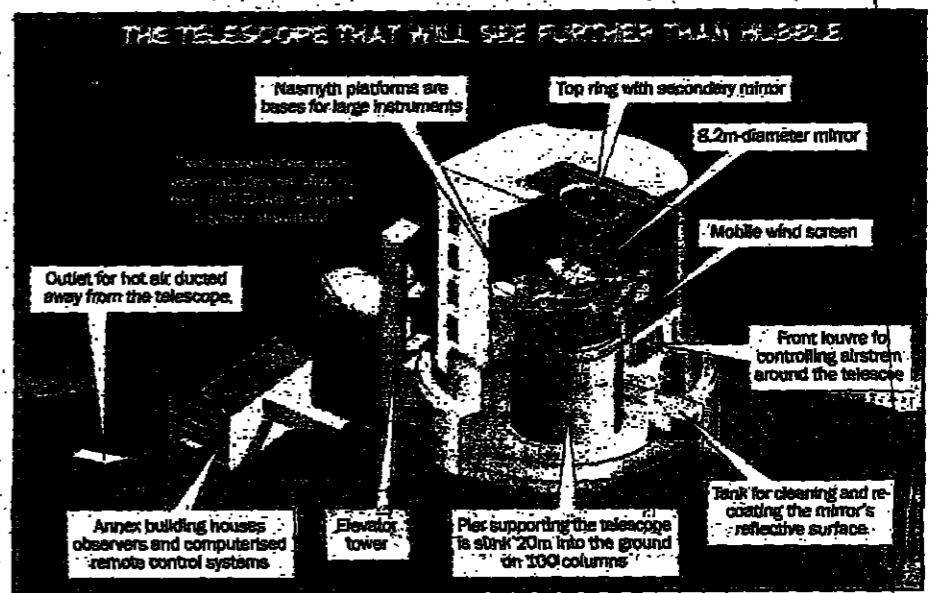
www.subaru-telescope.ac.jp — home page of the Subaru telescope.
www.com/mise/hubble_sites.html — links to Hubble space telescope sites.
seti.stsci.edu/~mitchner/HST-media.html — how to make a model of the Hubble Telescope.

though this has the advantage of being above the Earth's atmosphere — because it can collect more light than the space telescope. Hubble has been able to confirm hundreds of previously unknown galaxies with its reach of about ten billion light years. Subaru will be capable of focusing up to 12 billion light years away.

Professor Tamura says it will also enable scientists to observe directly planetary systems outside the solar system — the existence of which was discovered in 1995. "Until 1995 we did not know of any planetary system outside our solar system," the professor said.

"But in 1995 the first example of the extrasolar planet was discovered. The next step is somehow to observe directly those kind of extrasolar planets."

Scientists are also excited by the prospect of detecting the first generation of celestial objects which cooled from the primordial gas, which are predicted to be galaxies in their initial star-forming phase. "We will not be able to see the beginnings of the universe itself, which may be 15 billion light years away, or 20 billion. But now we hope to be able to observe the infant universe," Professor Tamura said.



£350

CREDIT CARD BOOKING LINE
0990 777555
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

THOMAS COOK HOLIDAYS

GREAT FARAWAY DEALS

DESTINATION	ACCOM.	DEPARTS	RENTS	PRICE
Tropical Shores Jamaica	RO	May 7	Gatwick	£355
Caribbean Barbados	RO	May 7	Gatwick	£424
Dominican Republic	AI	May 7	Gatwick	£444
Antigua	SC	June 7	Gatwick	£508

DESTINATION	ACCOM.	DEPARTS	RENTS	PRICE
Tropical Shores Cancun	RO	May 7	Gatwick	£484
Mexico Puerto Vallarta	AI	June 7	Gatwick	£524
Cancun	BB	May 7	Gatwick	£534
Cancun	AI	May 7	Gatwick	£564

DESTINATION	ACCOM.	DEPARTS	RENTS	PRICE
Tropical Shores Sri Lanka	BB	May 7	Gatwick	£379
Sri Lanka/Maldives	AI	May 7	Gatwick	£444
Maldives	HB	June 7	Gatwick	£614
Maldives	AI	June 7	Gatwick	£784

To get a great deal on your faraway summer holiday hurry down to your local Thomas Cook shop or book by phone or see [findtext](#) page 268. Offer applies to adults only.

SHOPS OPEN ON SUNDAYS

Don't just book it. Thomas Cook it.

INCLUDES

FREE

INSURANCE

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Thierry Mugler's sexy clothes are designed to bring out the goddess in women. It's all to do with escaping his unhappy past. Interview, Style, this Sunday

COLLECT FOUR TOKENS THIS SUNDAY

Had your token? Visit the token line at free token by email or bring the special token. Find more at [www.sundaytimes.co.uk](#)

FREE BOOKS SCHOOLS

THE SUNDAY TIMES / IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS



Duff wants \$50,000 a month child support

'Cheap billionaire' feeds his daughter on \$3 a day

THE chairman of Revlon cosmetics, Ronald Perelman, was chided yesterday for being New York's cheapest billionaire after saying that he can feed his four-year-old daughter for \$3 (£1.50) a day.

The remark came in exchanges during a contentious court hearing to decide how much Mr Perelman, 55, should pay in child support to his third former wife, Patricia Duff, 44, a wealthy socialite, to whom he was married for 18 months. As Judge Franklin

Weissberg remarked: "We're in uncharted waters here. There aren't too many cases where a billionaire and a multimillionaire slug it out."

Indeed, the hearing was just the kind of clash enjoyed by New York's tabloid media. "It won't take a lotta bread to feed my kid," blared a headline in the New York Post, which also coined the "cheapest billionaire" comment.

Jim Haggerty, a spokesman for Ms Duff, added his two cents' worth by saying: "Ron

Multimillionaires end up quibbling over cents, writes Ian Brodie

Perelman lives like the Sultan of Brunei and has the nerve to quibble about how much he should support his child.

Mr Perelman, one of America's richest men, agreed that his worth was "approximately \$6 billion". He described a life of private jet, yachts, luxury holidays and a string of lavish homes and estates from Man-

hattan to Long Island, Palm Beach and Los Angeles.

Yet when his daughteraleigh comes to stay with him, Mr Perelman said in evidence, she eats \$3 worth of food a day: chicken fingers, hot dogs, cereal for breakfast, hamburgers and some pasta.

"Three dollars? So about \$1,000 a year would be appro-

priate," asked William Beslow, Ms Duff's lawyer. "Yes," Mr Perelman replied.

Figures from the US Department of Agriculture show that \$3.07 a day was the national average last year for a "low-cost" home-cooked food plan for a four-year-old. Mr Perelman has a full-time chef on his staff. Ms Duff is seeking \$50,000 a month in child support, including \$40,000 to rent a New York flat, a second car, \$60,000 a year for a nanny, extra household help and cash

for holidays. She also wants Mr Perelman to continue paying for the girl's school and medical insurance.

Mr Perelman is paying \$12,000 a month in child support plus \$1.5 million a year in maintenance to Ms Duff.

Mr Perelman amassed his fortune partly through take-over battles. He was a bit player in the Monica Lewinsky scandal: she was offered a Revlon job after Mr Perelman was contacted by Vernon Jordan, the President's friend.



Perelman: 'I've like Sultan of Brunei'

Senate veteran goes into battle for friend Bill

By BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton called on an old Arkansas friend yesterday to mount the last, impassioned speech for his defence, as the White House team ditched its low-key approach, and cranked up emotion and rhetoric for a final attack. Dale Bumpers, 73, like Mr Clinton a former Governor of Arkansas, and a senator for 24 years, arrived on Capitol Hill yesterday to do battle for his friend and protégé.

Yesterday marked the anniversary of the start of the Lewinsky scandal, when accounts of the President's friendship with the young trainee first broke, adding to the nation's favourite catchphrase lines such as "Sir, the girl is here with the pizza". But after a year of tortuous drama, the President's fate could be settled as early as Monday, when Democrats want to hold a blunt "Yes" or "No" vote on whether to scrap the trial on the two articles of impeachment against Mr Clinton.

Expectations are that Republicans, who hold a 55-45 advantage in the Senate, would squash that bid. But with Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott pressing to wrap up the trial by mid-February, there is a widespread sense that Republicans are losing their appetite for stretching it out. In deploy-

ing Mr Bumpers to close the President's case, the White House pitched straight at the public's lack of enthusiasm for a long trial. Folksy but civilised, an old-fashioned liberal Democrat but also a tough, trained lawyer with a love of a courtroom brawl, Mr Bumpers can be relied on to deliver a powerful, populist speech. A huge, white-haired man, with a booming voice, he is hard to ignore.

A much-loved figure in the Senate, Mr Bumpers became a political star when he dislodged the famous Orval Faubus in running for Governor, and then ousted the distinguished, William Fulbright,

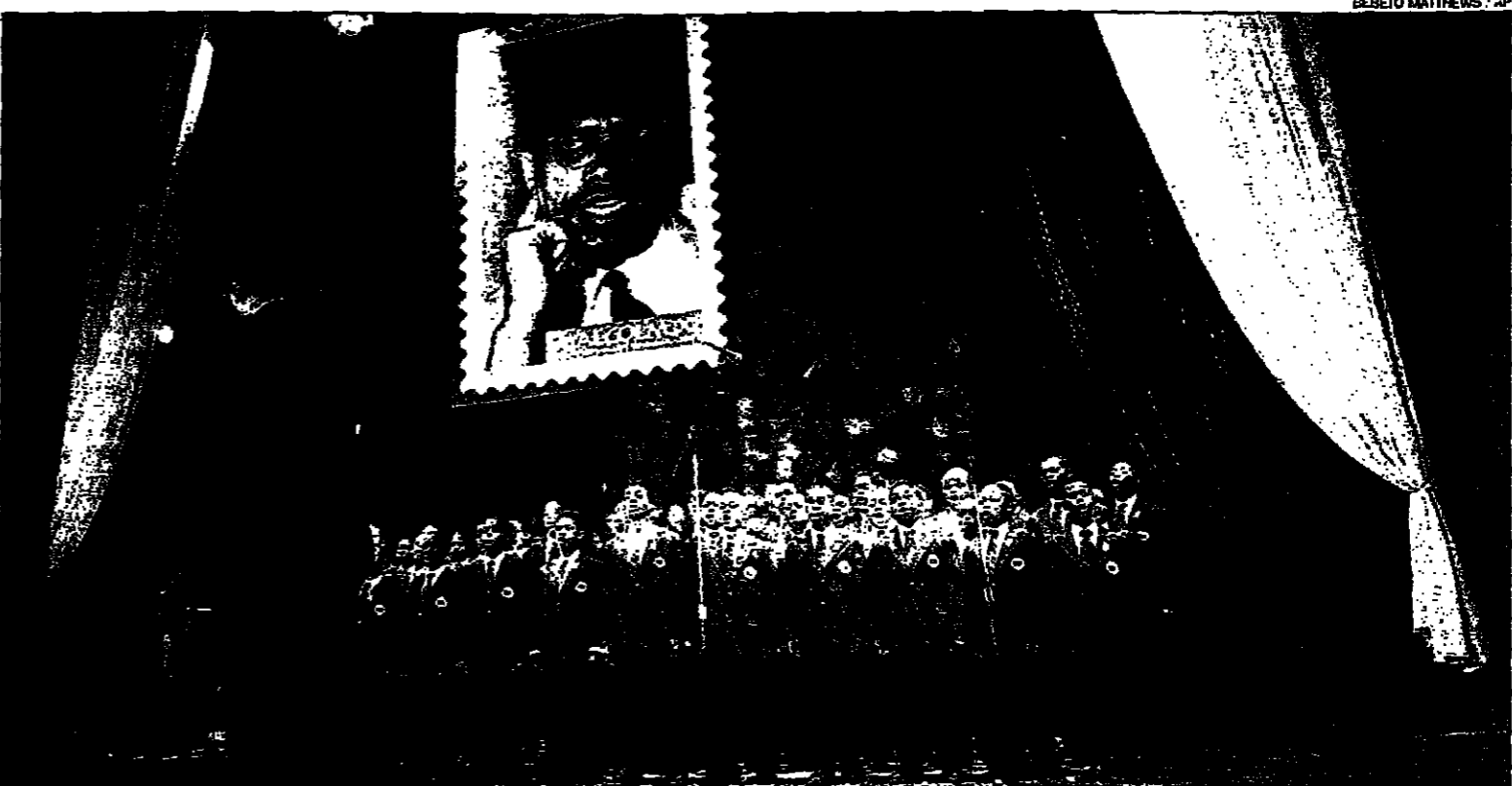
one of Mr Clinton's political mentors, from his Senate seat. But he won many friends on the other side of the aisle during his tenure. As a Hutchinson, a Republican Representative for Arkansas, and a member of the House team prosecuting Mr Clinton, described him this week with approval as "excellent — just an old country lawyer".

In Mr Clinton's defence, deputy White House counsel Cheryl Mills, 33, the first woman to take the floor in the trial, said the prosecution was wrong to focus on whether the President had lied in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case, because the House had thrown out that charge against him. Ms Mills is seen as strengthening Mr Clinton's already formidable appeal to women. She appealed to senators to overlook Mr Clinton's flaws. "We've had imperfect leaders in the past, and we'll have imperfect leaders in the future," she said, but their imperfections did not stop "the march for civil rights and equal opportunity".

New polls show that the President's job approval ratings following his State of the Union speech on Tuesday are near their all-time high point — up to 76 per cent in one survey.



Bumpers: folksy liberal and tough lawyer



The Boys Choir of Harlem at the dedication of a postage stamp honouring Malcolm X, the assassinated black nationalist leader. The guests at the presentation in the Apollo Theatre, Harlem, included his six daughters. The 33-cent stamp is the 22nd in the Black Heritage series

'Son of Star Wars' targets rogue states' missiles

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

IN A major shift of American policy, the Clinton Administration has decided to develop a "Son of Star Wars" defence against missile attacks by North Korea and other rogue states.

President Clinton has written to President Yeltsin asking to renegotiate the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, a bedrock of early arms control agreements, so that America can build a limited national system of missile defences.

Initial reaction from Moscow was discouraging. China also raised objections. But in Washington, William

Cohen, the Secretary of Defence, said that if Russia would not agree to changes, America had the option of simply withdrawing from the treaty on six months' notice.

The Administration will request \$10.5 billion (£6.4 billion) from Congress over the next six years for the research, testing and building of the new anti-missile defence system. "We cannot afford to fail," Mr Cohen said. Washington's concerns were aroused initially by a government commission that issued a warning of the rapid spread of missile technology to such countries as North Korea, Iraq and Iran.

The caution was underlined dramatically last August when North Korea launched a three-stage rocket called Taepo-Dong I that demonstrated a potential for reaching the US mainland. "This is not an abstract, theoretical threat," said the Pentagon's top officer, General Hugh Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Rather, it was a real threat that would pose a danger not only to American troops overseas, but also to Americans at home.

In 1983, former President Reagan launched his Star Wars programme to build a national shield against Soviet missile attack. The project cost \$40 billion but never came close to reality.

The concept of dozens of missiles in space that could instantly intercept Soviet ICBMs was a technical and software challenge that American scientists could not crack. The new plan is modest by comparison. It envisages satellite sensors to spot the exhaust of hostile missile launches immediately after lift-off, but the interceptors will be based on Earth, not in space.

The network of early-warning radars — in Alaska, California and Massachusetts — would track the flight path of any incoming missile. Interceptors travelling at 25,000mph would home in on the missile and destroy it by firing small rockets.

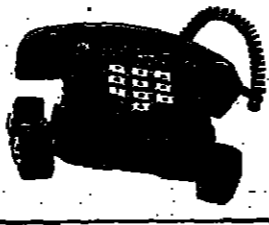
'Lowest UK SVR Mortgage 1996 - 1998' Source: Moneyfacts

Save money. Switch to a better mortgage rate. (With 0% hassle.)

Lender	APR (Variable)	SVR	Monthly Repayments (after tax relief)	Total Payable (gross)	Total Saving with Direct Line**
ALLIANCE & LEICESTER	7.9%	7.45%	£576.83	£179,335.00	£11,690.00
WOOLWICH	7.9%	7.45%	£577.43	£178,635.00	£10,990.00
ABBEY NATIONAL	7.8%	7.40%	£574.21	£177,263.00	£4,618.00
DIRECT LINE*	7.1%	6.89%	£543.34	£167,645.00	-

APRs based on standard variable rate mortgage. Rates with effect from 2nd February 1999. Rates for our borrowers correct as at 18th January 1999. *With effect from 1st February 1999. **Based on a £20,000 mortgage repayable over 25 years (300 monthly repayments) with rates (as quoted) unchanged constant.

The table says it all: you may be paying way too much for your Standard Variable Rate Mortgage. By moving it to Direct Line, you could save up to £34 a month. Over a year you could be saving up to £400. Which could mean an extra holiday. And across the entire term of the loan, the saving can grow to as much as £11,690. Or, put another way, a new car. With Direct Line, you'll find there's no arrangement fee, no valuation fee, no mortgage indemnity fee. And because we calculate interest daily not annually, you save money on your mortgage. You don't have to move to move your mortgage, call Direct Line now to find out how much extra you could have in your pocket.



0181 649 9099

LONDON

0161 831 9099

MANCHESTER

0141 221 9099

GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 9am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. NTT54

www.directline.com/mortgages

Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 228 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5SL.

SALE SALE SALE SALE

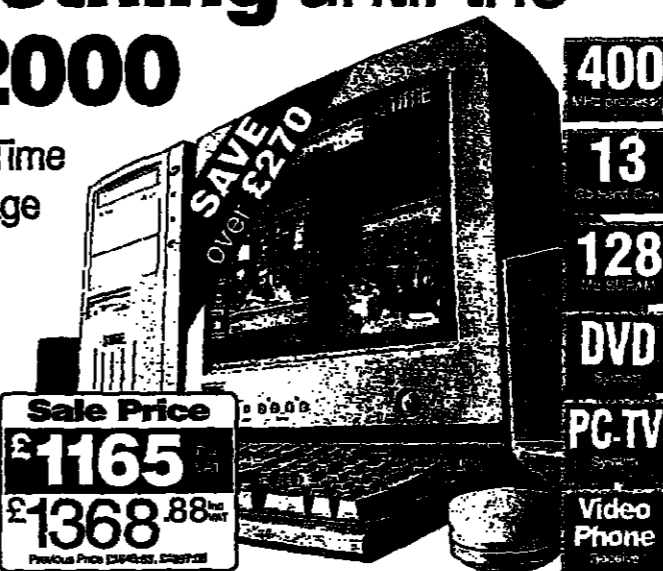
HER REDUCTIONS FURTHER REDUCTIONS FURTHER REDUCTIONS FURTHER REDUCTIONS FURTHER REDUCTIONS

Pay Nothing until the Year 2000

on the ultimate Time FamilyPC package

Our highest performance 400MHz 3D computer includes a huge 13Gb hard disk, 128Mb SDRAM plus the best 3D graphics and sound, and comes complete with printer, scanner, DVD-system, PC-TV system and VideoPhone receive for just £1165 + VAT.

Buy now at sale prices and get over 12 months interest free credit with not a penny to pay until the Year 2000!



Powerful 400-2 3D DVD Computer

400MHz AMD K5-2 3D processor • 128Mb SDRAM • 13Gb hard disk • 8MB ATI 3D AGP2 Graphics • 3D Now! technology • SoundBlaster 64v 3D PCI variable sound • 15" colour screen • 512k cache • DVD-ROM drive system • PC-TV system • 586 PC modem and Videophone receive (see details below) • All standard features including Windows 95, keyboard, mouse and software backup CDs. Fully Win95 & Year 2000 compliant.

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

FREE Printer

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)

Standard 3D Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000 compatible and other VideoPhone features (see details below)



Our promise to you

It's Time for someone who takes the time to understand your needs

It's Time for someone who takes the time to understand your needs

It's Time for someone who takes the time to understand your needs

It's Time for someone who takes the time to understand your needs

It's Time for someone who takes the time to understand your needs

It's Time for someone who takes the time to understand your needs

It's Time for someone who takes the time to understand your needs

It's Time for someone who takes the time to understand your needs

It's Time for someone who takes the time to understand your needs

It's Time for someone who takes the time to understand your needs

It's Time for someone who takes the time to understand your needs

It's Time for someone who takes the time to understand your needs

It's Time for someone who takes the time to understand your needs

It's Time for someone who takes the time to understand your needs

It's Time for someone who takes the time to understand your needs

It's Time for someone who takes the time to understand your needs

SIX OF THE BEST

LIQUID SOAP

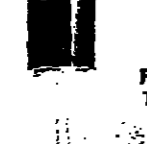
LEMON ANTIBACTERIAL, £1.45
This handwash comes in a simple container with a pump. Fresh citrus fragrance with smooth texture and a vivid yellow colour. Leaves hands soft and refreshed. Boots nationwide (0845 0708090) 8/10



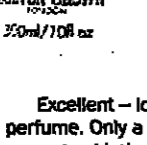
SAVON, £8.95
Elegant, traditional packaging. Lathers well and leaves hands clean and moisturised. The only drawback is that it smells like Fairy Liquid. L'Occitane (mail order 0171-290 1421) 7/10



CITRUS, £4.50
Beautiful blue glass bottle with an awkward plastic dispenser. Clear, thick and very effective, turning into frothy bubbles. Leaves hands soft with a faint tang of lemon oil. Neals Yard, 15 Neals Yard, WC2 (0171-627 1949) 9/10



FINE LIQUID, £8.50
Thick, honey-coloured liquid in a smart pump-action bottle. With a grapefruit scent, it cleanses effectively and does not leave hands sticky or dry. Molton Brown, 58 South Molton Street, W1 (0171-499 6474) 10/10



COOKS, £6.50
Excellent — lovely fresh cucumber perfume. Only a little needed to form a good lather. Looks good on the kitchen draining board. Thoroughly recommended. At Crabtree & Evelyn nationwide from March (0171-603 1811) 9/10

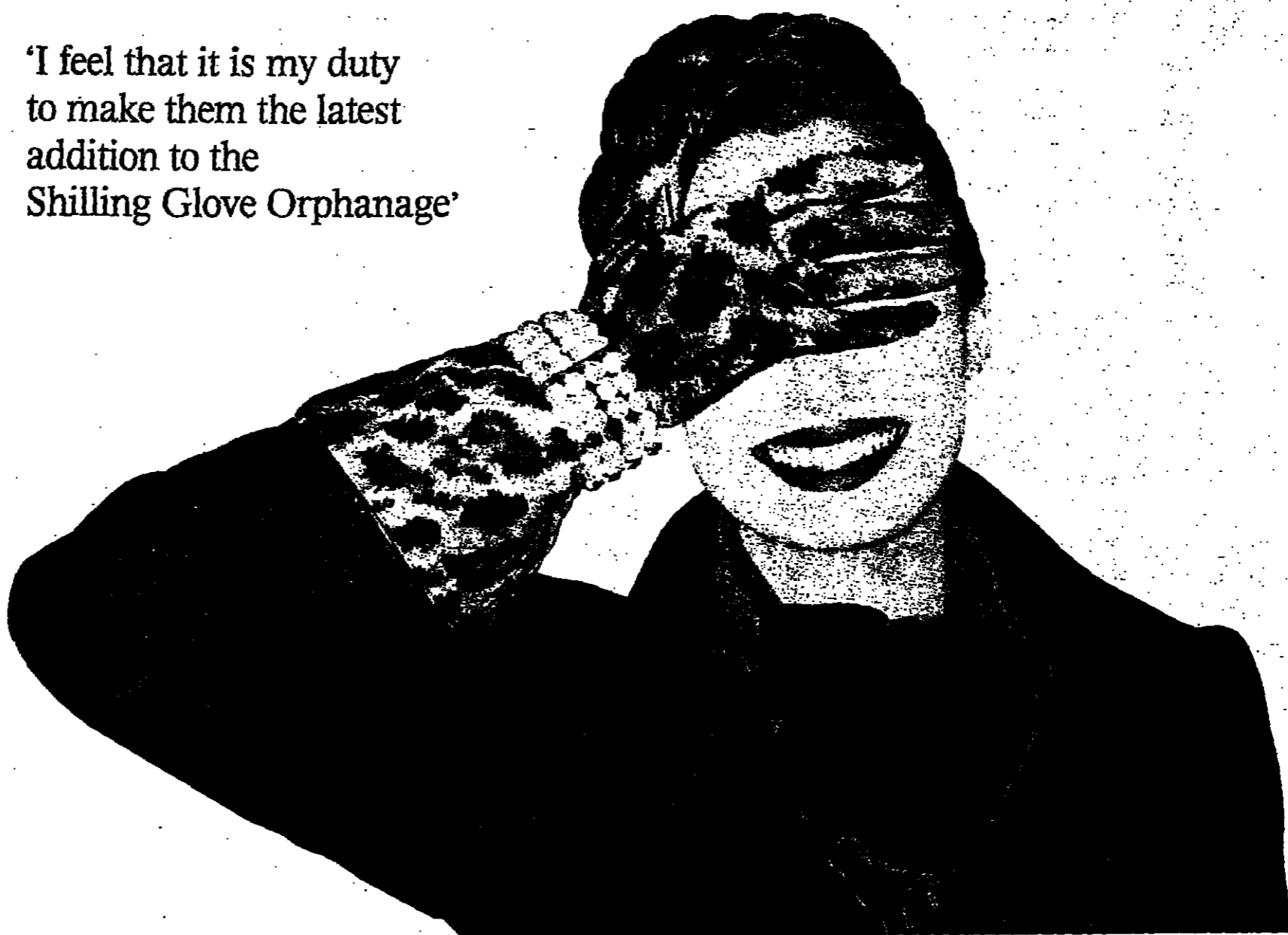


COLOUR ESSENTIALS CLEAN HANDS, £1.50
Gorgeous colour with strong medicinal smell. Lathers well — very little needed — leaves hands clean but not dry. Marks & Spencer nationwide (0171-935 4422) 8/10



COMPILED BY DEBORAH BRETT

'I feel that it is my duty to make them the latest addition to the Shilling Glove Orphanage'



In love with gloves

Every so often I wonder what sort of life a Martian might think I led were one to land his spaceship on my roof and take a look in my top drawer. There he would find a collection of lace, ribbon and enamel buttons, lengths of veiling sprinkled with velvet bows, and elbow-length white kid gloves sufficient to keep an entire ballroom-full of Edwardian debutantes and their dowager mamas supplied for years on end.

I know that there are women — some of them are my best friends — who don't care for this kind of pretty trash. It's not just that they don't feel the need for it. They actively

CUTTING EDGE

JANE SHILLING

dislike it. The sight of a faded kid glove lovingly entwined with a necklace of paste brilliants and a scrap of cherry-red silk-velvet ribbon speaks to them not of Chopin nocturnes and Chekhovian melancholy but of clutter, woolly thinking and bad feng shui. Even I, in one of my periodic fits of minimalism, have been known to tip the contents of

this drawer on to my bed with a view to returning the whole lot to the Odam shop from which it mostly came. Somehow this resolution is never carried out. Something stays my hand. But what is it?

Partly it is a sense of history. That pair of superfine milk-chocolate suede gauntlets, marked on the inside wrist in spidery copperplate "Made in France, size 6½" — through what adventures did they pass, before ending up in the dusty old gloves' home of a London charity shop? Whose little hand fleshed out the narrow, pointed fingers of those powder-pink, full-length evening gloves with their elegant white piping, fiddly pearl buttons and faint, melancholy scent of mothballs? They are gloves to go dancing in. They must have been worn while love affairs began and ended, proposals were made and rejected. Or perhaps they belonged to a girl who hated dances and sat in the cloakroom all evening fiddling with those pink pearl buttons until she could escape...

I am so hopelessly in thrall to the pathetic fallacy that in shops where gloves are sold I find myself attributing personalities to the merchandise and feeling that it is my duty to take home such and such a pair — as though I were Mia Farrow and the gloves a gaggle of Vietnamese orphans.

In these circumstances, the best thing to do is to keep away from glove shops altogether — especially the King's Road, a particular danger zone, with Brora (where luxurious cashmere gloves are now reduced to £10) at one end, and at the other Peter Jones, whose repertoire encompasses a vast range, from dove-grey sheepskin mittens, £12.95, to shocking-pink kid lined with silk, £29.50, and fine black suede elegantly ruched at the wrist, £35. Convinced that a hard winter lies ahead, I found myself lingering over hand-stitched charcoal lambskin with a pale grey lining, £35, tan lambskin with a cream fur cuff, £45, black Italian leather gauntlets lined with rabbit fur, £35, and cashmere-lined black suede with a tortoiseshell buckle, £35.

At Harvey Nichols the selection is smaller but wilder, with black glimmer chenille by Dents,

£12.95, and a handsome pair of three-quarter-length silk-lined black nappa leather gloves, £60. There is an exuberant range of designs by Moschino, from relatively sedate knitted styles in fringed black mohair, £34.95, and lacy-knit red wool with an orchid-pink scalloped cuff, £33.95, to *fin de siècle* elegance — a black suede gauntlet with a jet-beaded cuff, £95 — and an extravagant pair of heart-on-hand styles, in black kid with white top-stitching and a bright red heart motif, £75, or zebra-striped, ponyskin with the same red heart, £95.

At this level, gloves begin to cross the boundary between garment and objet d'art. Those from Hermès fall firmly into the latter category, particularly the white kid summer glove with a little linen handkerchief tucked into its cuff, and the child's berry-red sheepskin mitten, gaily embroidered with golden trumpets and musical notes — an article so enticing that only the humiliating prospect of a Cinderella-style struggle to force my adult hand into its infantile contours prevented me from making it the latest addition to the Shilling Glove Orphanage.



SALE

During the Winter Sale our entire collection of exclusive international brand and designer furniture is reduced to save you 20% to 50% off our usual prices. Enjoy some of the most exciting furniture in the UK, and let our free interior design service help you put the pieces together.



30% OFF

DECORUM FROM ALEXANDER ROTHSCHILD
Made initially for the American market, this elegant cabinet furniture has been designed in the Neo-Classical style with elements of Sheraton inspiration. The construction employs elaborate use of marquetry and features walnut, prima vera and birds eye maple to decorate the cherry veneer surfaces of the table and china showcase. During our Winter Sale this superb range is reduced by 30%.

GENUINE INTEREST FREE CREDIT 0% APR
Subject to status. Written quotation on request.

FURNITURE
Village
INTERNATIONAL

Maple House 145 Tottenham Court Road
London W1 0171 387 7000



TURRI 20% OFF

Kensington Classics 25% OFF

WINE 20% OFF

MATLAND SMITH 20% OFF

MCC 30% OFF

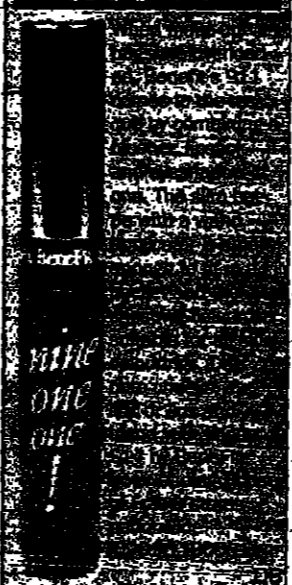
25% OFF

DREXEL HERITAGE

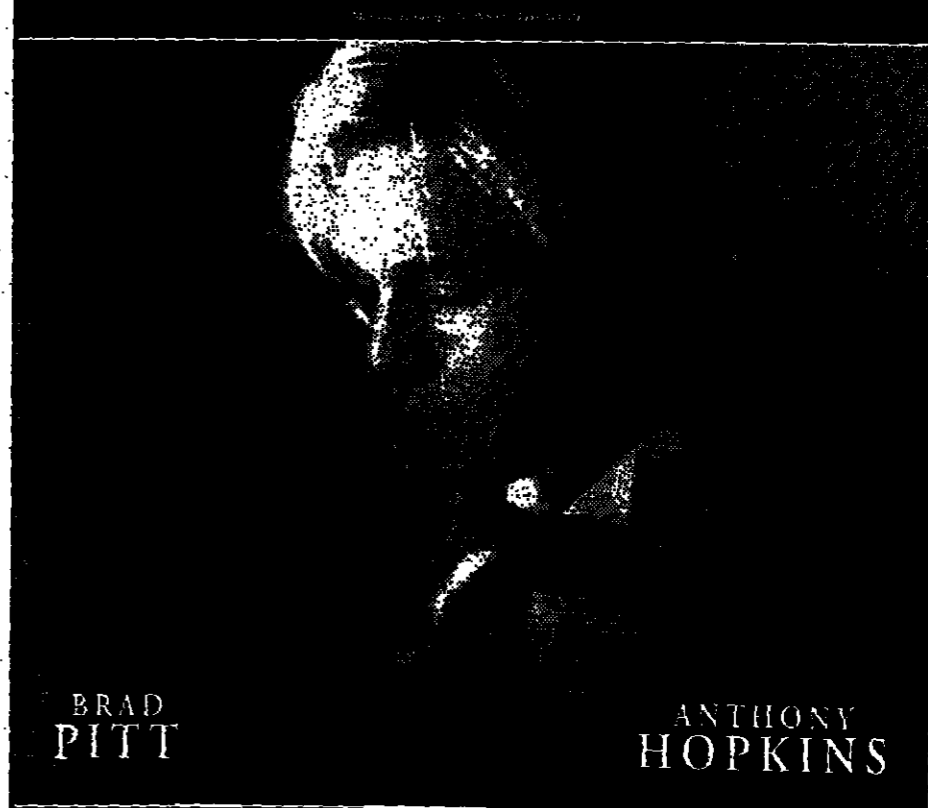
UP TO 50% OFF

selected Showroom models from our international range. Available for immediate delivery.

HOT TIP



"AN ENJOYABLY BIG, EXPENSIVE AND ROMANTIC FILM"
"PITT DOES SUPERBLY... HOPKINS IS MESMERISING... A VISUAL DELIGHT..."



MEET JOE BLACK

SOONER OR LATER EVERYONE DOES.

NOW SHOWING AT CINEMAS EVERYWHERE

The secret world of an embassy wife

No one suspected that Catherine Manning, for more than 20 years the perfect diplomatic hostess, was leading a double life.

Interview by Grace Bradberry

Catherine Manning, the wife of David Manning, until recently Ambassador to Israel, is that rare thing, a diplomatic wife happy to live in her husband's shadow. She has done it for 24 years now, apparently without complaint. But then, Catherine Manning has a dark and thrilling secret: she is an award-winning crime writer.

For 15 years, she kept this other life to herself. When in England, she would occasionally attend crime-writers' dinners, introducing herself by her nom de plume, Elizabeth Ironside. When on the diplomatic circuit, she would be queen of the canapés, mistress of the official crockery — "an English porcelain, white with a gold crest on it," she says, in her soft, trilling voice.

It was in Israel that this carefully structured plot unravelled. "I was still trying both to write and to be the Ambassador's wife, and I threw on a dress and went to a dinner. A woman asked me what I did. Eventually I told her. She said: 'Oh, I knew you were very busy because of the state of your hands.' She'd noticed that they hadn't been manicured. Of course, she had beautifully manicured nails."

Yet Catherine Manning is the sort of woman who would always look "well turned-out". We meet in a sparse, cream flat, within a grandiose apartment block in South London. Inside the vestibule, the shuco work has been restored. In short, it's oddly like an embassy. Manning does not disgrace the setting. She looks as if she might have been born in a cashmere sweater similar to the one she is wearing.

Appearances are deceptive. The Mannings are renting, until the Israan move out of their Chelsea home — her husband was posted back to London slightly earlier than expected. And far from being born to this kind of life, Catherine grew up in a Northamptonshire village, where her mother was a social worker and her father a GP. "It was a Manchester Guardian-reading household," she says.

Her father died while she was in her teens and the family endured straitened circumstances. Educated at a grammar school, she went up to Oxford aged only 17. There she met her husband, went to lots of parties, and formed no idea of what she wanted to do next. At the age of 23, she married and, since David Manning had joined the Foreign Office, this answered the question.

"The moment we decided to get married, I did a teaching qualification," because she thought it would be useful. This was her only career plan. The first posting was Warsaw, in the mid-Seventies. Her husband learnt to speak Polish, she managed only a little. "I think I was really miserable and the thing that saved me was meeting a Polish historian who was writing a book on Conrad. I became a sort of literary assistant."

So, as her husband concentrated on his first posting, she found other intellectual diversions. "That's been true in every job he's been in — his focus has been different from mine. He was thinking in political or economic terms, whereas I was thinking in human terms."

Traditionally, diplomatic wives have found a focus in



Catherine Manning: all the attributes of the ideal ambassador's wife — plus a talent for concealment and crime writing

their children. But as other wives fell pregnant, for Catherine that didn't happen.

"I couldn't have children," she says, carefully. "It was a source of regret and, for a time, of real sadness. But you can't spend your whole life regretting one condition. I went

through it and came out at the other side, and left that particular thing behind."

She began writing her first novel, set in India (her husband's second foreign posting), when she was 30. "We'd just bought a house and we were completely broke," she

says. "But I did it partly to pass the time, too." Her husband paralled on the manuscript and sent it to an agent, picked from the *Artists' and Writers' Yearbook* for no other reason than that the surname began with A. The agent quickly placed the book, and *A Very*

Private Enterprise won the Crime Writers' Association first novel award.

Had she turned to writing to fill a void? "It might be that I started to write at a moment when really I should have..." she begins. "I mean, I'd been married long enough... it

was quite clear that if I was going to have children, then I should have had them by then, and I wasn't going to."

One has to admire a woman who could respond to such a crushing discovery by becoming an award-winning novelist. During her husband's third posting — to Paris — she also polished off a history doctorate. Not the least formidable, and, frankly, rather shy, she is the kind of resourceful wife that Foreign Office mandarins must adore. "David is always very dedicated to his work," she says. "Which means you could spend your time twiddling your thumbs — or you could do something yourself."

The Mannings were in Moscow from 1990 to 1993. It was a scary period, though not, apparently for Catherine Manning. "They were the best years there since 1917," she says with a glee. "During August 1991, when the coup took place, I walked every day with my dog down to the barricades."

They lived in a rented house with "a KGB man on the door who noted every time one went in and out." Later, people were so concerned about security they would beg to have a policeman outside their door.

During this period she wrote her second novel, *Death in the Garden*, which was shortlisted for the Crime Writers' Association Gold Dagger award. Back in England, she completed her third, *The Accomplice*, mostly about Russia. Naively, she thought that her first stint as an ambassador's wife, in Israel, would provide her best opportunity yet to get on with her writing.

"I ought to have known better, but I started out thinking: 'This is wonderful. I'm going to an interesting country, to live in a lovely house, and

there are staff. I shall work during the day, and give receptions in the evening.' Officially, there was no reason she should not have approached it in this way. "The Foreign Office is now absolutely politically correct on this. There is no pressure on wives to do anything connected with their husbands' jobs. That's the theory. The practice for ambassadors' wives is very different."

It was wonderful, she says, to meet the key political players in Israel. (Though she confesses: "To tell you the truth, Israel is a country without small talk.") But her writing suffered. Finally, she decided to retreat to their house in France for six months each year, where she wrote her latest novel, *The Art of Deception*, a tale of money-laundering and murder set in Moscow and Knightsbridge.

In truth, there seems to be a part of Catherine Manning which enjoys if not deception, then secrecy and subterfuge. She clearly rather enjoyed having two lives. Then her publishers pointed out that, in today's world, merely writing books was not enough. You had to publicise them.

"I'd never had a launch party until I went to Israel. People just assume you're an ambassador's wife and that's it. It didn't bother me. But while we were in Israel, David gave a party for *The Accomplice*. He did it as a private person, and had invitations printed from David Manning, for the launch of Elizabeth Ironside's book. Lots of people came and realised that was me only when they arrived." She counts this with the relish of a spy whose cover was never blown.

● *The Art of Deception*, by Elizabeth Ironside, New English Library, £5.99.

Starters for No 10

Many people think that just because Tony Blair promised his constituents in Sedgefield that his favourite dish is takeaway fish and chips, but has now also told compilers of *The Ilington Cookbook* that he likes nothing better than "fresh fettuccine garnished with an exotic sauce of olive oil, sun-dried tomatoes and capers", then he must be some kind of shameless chameleon who changes to woo whomever he happens to be with. Well, that's certainly what I think.

But this culinary misunderstanding has made Blair anxious about his image. Or, as he put it to Frank Bruno at a Downing Street cocktail party last night: "They're trying to stitch me up good 'n' proppa, ain't it. Frankie, makin' me out to be a Zelig of the food world, like in that Woody Allen movie, know 'wo' I mean, Harry?"

Before turning with his other face to Michael Caine, from whom he sought some moral support by pleading: "Mike, you know me mate. I'm j's mmm 'n' dad — mmm — about me fish 'n' chips. But not a lotta people know 'at."

But Tony understands that the days when people changed the way they spoke simply in order to blend in with whomever they were talking to are, like, so five minutes ago. That was last year's political fashion, which Tony flaunted so flamboyantly on the *Des O'Connor Show* last June, when he told us all how he loves to play foote with "the kids" and how, on a holiday in France, "They put on a little show for us, with the mayor of the little village."

Then Blair got a pager message from Alastair Campbell explaining that everyone speaks Estuary English now, and the latest focus group findings showed that "you are what you eat" was the new mantra on voters' lips.

This is why — whereas an American President might be followed around a crowded room by a pair of discreet bodyguards — Tony Blair, at his Downing Street cocktail parties, is accompanied by a pair of discreet waitresses.

One carries a tray of food, the other a tray of

drinks. Approaching John Prescott, say, Tony grabs himself a half of Tetley's and a cheese-and-pickle bap. As he moves on to Kate Moss, Tony's already nibbling on a rocket leaf and sipping vodka and cranberry juice, swiftly swapping these for an asparagus quiche tartlet and a Malibu and blackcurrant when it's time to get the lockdown on the world of showbiz from *Supermarket Sweep*'s Dale Winton.

Because of his hectic lifestyle, Blair now employs a full-time social dietitian to orchestrate his schedule in a way that enables him to blend in gastronomically with whomever he happens to be dining. If you would like to try the Blair diet as part of your new year makeover, here are a few examples of what Tony eats, and in whose company:

Paddy Ashdown: With Paddy, Tony makes a point of eating neither fish nor fowl, but something in between. Like Ashdown, Tony has this week vowed to hand over the responsibility of eating food to someone else — but not for six months!

Mike Tyson: Tony likes to take a bite out of Mike's ear. Peter Mandelson: Tony tends to choose lobster, making sure the restaurant bill is sent to Geoffrey Robinson.

John Humphrys: Blair often joins the *Today* presenter in eating a Cabinet minister for breakfast.

Robin Cook: The evening frequently ends with the two of them rolling around the floor of Chevening's drawing room, empty brandy bottles scattered about them like bowling pins.

David Owen: Anything, as long as it's between 9am and 11.30am, or 5pm to 7pm.

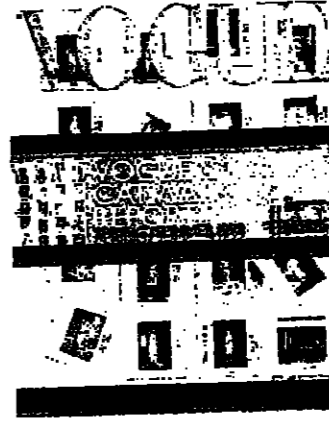
Richard Rogers: Tony orders seabass — just so long as all the bones have been repositioned on the outside of the fish, and the whole dish is served under a spectacular glass canopy.

Gordon Brown: With Gordon, Tony is scrupulous about cutting the cake straight down the middle, but still somehow manages to end up with the bigger half. But, hey babe, that's the way the cookie crumbles, as Tony was telling his buddy Bill Clinton only the other day.



MAN UNDERNEATH
JOE JOSEPH

You can never have too much Vogue



Sponsored by Harrods

Free with February Vogue
56-page Catwalk Report on the trends about to break

THE ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN
1799 - 1999
200 years of scientific discovery and communication

THE TIMES SCIENTISTS FOR THE NEW CENTURY

In the first of a new series of lectures starting on Wednesday, January 27, Dr Martin Westwell, a young chemist from Oxford University, will describe the war against superbugs. As well as explaining how antibiotics work, he will discuss the frightening prospect that, for the first time in the history of medicine, we have no weapons with which to fight the most deadly infections.

The talk will be introduced by Professor Susan Greenfield, director of the Royal Institution. There will be the opportunity for questions from the audience.

The lecture will be held at 7.30pm at the Royal Institution of Great Britain, 21 Albemarle Street, London W1X 4BS.

Please book me... ticket(s) at £5 and/or... ticket(s) @ £25 (concs) for the Scientists of the New Century on January 27:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____ DAY PHONE _____

I enclose my cheque made payable to Royal Institution

Value £ _____ Cheque No. _____

(Please write your name, address and card number on the back of the cheque)

Or, please debit my Visa/Mastercard/Amex card No. _____

Expiry date: _____

PRINT NAME _____

SIGNATURE _____

Please post coupon and remittance to:

The Royal Institution, 21 Albemarle Street, London W1X 4BS Tel: 0171-670 2985 (24 hrs) Fax: 0171 670 2920

Please note that tickets will be posted until January 21 only.

Tickets booked after this date will be held for collection on the night at the venue. If you do not receive your tickets please call 0171-670 2985 to confirm your booking.

STAPLES
The Office Superstore

WHY PAY MORE?

48 SUPERSTORES • FREEPHONE 0800 14 14 14 FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE OR TO PLACE YOUR ORDER

5 REAMS
WHITE
COPIER
PAPER

AN257394
• 500 sheets per ream
• A4, 80gsm

£9.99

UNBEATABLE LOW PRICES ON
OVER 7,000 OFFICE PRODUCTS

Send in the mercenaries, Mr Cook

Sam Kiley on why the Sierra Leone leader must not fall

Robin Cook would rather we all forgot about Sandline. The Foreign Secretary does not welcome reminders of the role played by this mercenary outfit in Sierra Leone.

Sandline may have co-operated with British diplomats to help to restore the lawfully elected President Kabbah to his rightful position as Sierra Leone's head of state. But, we are asked to believe, it was all without Mr Cook's knowledge. Sir Thomas Legg's inquiry cleared him of any wrongdoing, it seems. That, he hopes, is an end of it. Well, it shouldn't be.

Whether or not Sandline was implementing British policy then, it is quite clear that it should be now. The Foreign Secretary should learn from the events of last year. The redeployment of mercenaries in this blighted nation would be an act of genuinely ethical foreign policy.

Sierra Leone is once again teetering between democracy and criminal dementia. Charles Taylor, Liberia's President, is trying to take over the country with a mercenary group much more sinister than the London-based Sandline. He has hired 300 Ukrainians, along with other African dogs of war, in an effort to turn the nation into his private fiefdom.

Mr Taylor and his henchmen plan to get their hands on the country's enormously valuable resources of diamonds and rutile. They then propose to hand power to their creatures in the Revolutionary United Front (RUF). The RUF leader, Foday Sankoh, is on death row in Freetown for his past atrocities. There is a lot of competition for the title of Africa's most malevolent militia, but in this crowded field the RUF stands out.

Mr Sankoh's sidekick, Sam Bockarie, is a former hairdresser and professional disco-dancer turned butcher. He joined the opportunistic RUF thugs when a lorry carrying volunteers drove past him while he was idling at an Abidjan bus stop four years ago. The antics of the RUF leaders, and their allies in the deposed junta forces, would be blackly comic in an Evelyn Waugh sense if they were not bleakly murderous on a massive scale.

Eastern Freetown has been razed by the rebels. Their scorched earth tactics and the staggering level of their atrocities blight much of this country. Yesterday the rebels were seen cutting off the hands of civilians fleeing their path. Refugees talk of wholesale slaughter by the rebels, piles of bodies in the streets, and all-night parrying by drug-crazed pre-teen killers. The rebels have to be stopped, and soon.

This is where Mr Cook can salvage a little honour from the Sandline affair. This week, while the British Government continued to put pressure on President Kabbah to negotiate with the rebels, British forces have been keeping a weather eye on matters. A brigadier, David Richards, carried out reconnaissance in Freetown and has returned to brief Mr

Cook's Cabinet committee. He is likely to convey the message from both Mr Kabbah and his West African allies in Ecomog, that a ceasefire and negotiations are out of the question while the rebels hold the diamond-rich East.

It is clear that jaw-jaw will not work. If the rebels are allowed to maintain their grip on the diamond mines, the gems can be mined by anyone with a shovel. The rebels can generate tens of millions of pounds to fund their massacres. Talks while the rebels remain in possession of these resources will only strengthen the rebels' hands.

What the legitimate President and his allies need is air support to hit rebel bases from the rear. Without air support, Ecomog's armour and infantry can fight only a limited war of attrition, unable to strike behind the rebel lines.

It is in Britain's interest to see that air support, and additional military muscle, are supplied. We have a moral duty to maintain the President whose election we backed. But this crisis affects more than one country. If the Ecomog forces were to lose on the battlefields of Sierra Leone, a domino effect could harm the cause of progress throughout West Africa. Nigeria's own transition to democracy would be jeopardised.

Britain cannot help directly. It does not have the type of helicopter gunships that would be useful in Sierra Leone. It is, in any case, extremely unlikely that the Government would order Crown forces straight into an African bloodbath.

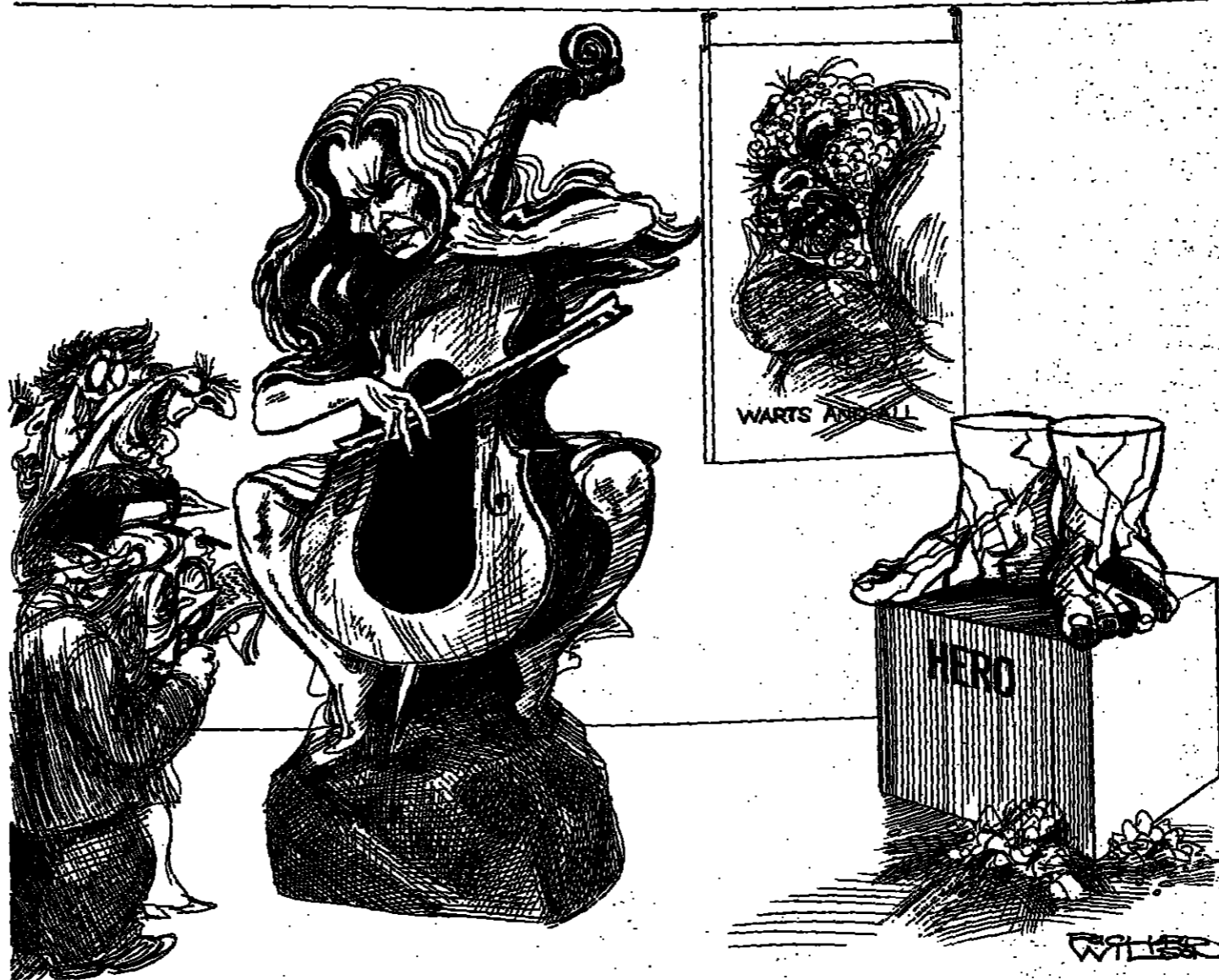
But there is an alternative. In 1997, President Kabbah had almost routed the rebels with the help of Executive Outcomes, a South African mercenary company. With 146 soldiers of fortune and one M124 helicopter gunship, he had all but finished them off. But pressure from abroad forced the President to cancel the contract. As the mercenaries left, they predicted that Mr Kabbah's rule would last 90 days. He was ousted after 80.

Britain, and her Western partners, can now help Sierra Leone by hiring a company like Executive Outcomes. Sandline, or any one of a number of British security firms operating in Africa, such an organisation could bring those badly needed helicopters to fight in Freetown and beyond. The Sierra Leone Government cannot afford to do so. In all honour, we cannot afford not to.

At no risk to British soldiers and equipment, Mr Cook can practise private-sector peace-keeping. He should authorise the deployment of mercenaries to help Ecomog to drive the rebels out of Sierra Leone. That, after all, is what the Foreign Office thought was a good idea a year ago. This time one can only hope that Mr Cook learns from the past, instead of trying to forget it.

comment@the-times.co.uk

Mary Ann Sieghart returns next week.



The camera often lies

I can see it already. "Paddy and Jane" is the true but tormented tale of a soldier turned politician. This Wellingtonian figure is a man of dazzling but flawed genius. Told through the eyes of his former secretary, the film uses their affair as a metaphor of political turmoil. Paddy, portrayed by Kenneth Branagh, is caught between wife and mistress, Labour and Tory, Charles Kennedy and Tony Blair. He draws on his SBS training to survive each crisis. We are assured that the sex scenes are "courageous and explicit... intended to convey a deeper kind of truth". Ten provincial reps are closed to supply the Arts Council grant.

The film *Hilary and Jackie*, initiated by the sister of Jacqueline du Pré, is a similar melodrama of rivalry and love. It is rescued from sentimentality only by Emily Watson's acting and frequent mercy dashes by Elgar. Whether the remorselessly unpleasant scenes are all true cannot be judged, since du Pré is dead. Most of her friends and admirers believe she has been defamed by an angst-ridden sister and brother-in-law. Certainly any shred of dignity or niceness has been edited out. This being a film, much is made of sex and the whole confection is called "true", a word almost devoid of meaning in movies. The film was incomprehensibly subsidised by the British taxpayer.

This is a road much trodden, and much littered with cant. Scholarly pens are sharpened over *Shakespeare in Love*, a film of Tom Stoppard's charming fiction that a randy Elizabethan poet called William Shakespeare had written the block during a play called *Romeo and Juliet*. From this he was deliciously rescued by Gwyneth Paltrow, leaving us for ever in her debt. There is no evidence that any of this happened, but so what? Stoppard makes no claim to veracity. Nor does the dazzling designer-Tudor floorshow, *Elizabeth*, currently on general release. Some myths are invulnerable to correction.

There is no evidence for half of history, and even less for the hack history of the film industry. *Gandhi* was a travesty of the British Raj. *Amadeus* was not about the real Mozart. *The Music Lovers* was not about the real Tchaikovsky. Closer to our time, Oliver Stone's JFK gave a false account of the killing of Kennedy. Jim Sheridan's *In the Name of the Father* was a false account of the Guildford Four. The

"True story" films should carry a Mostly Untrue certificate from the censors

Carlton documentary. They used fabricated scenes and dialogue, intercut with documentary footage, to imply as fact what they knew was fiction. Such falsity was said in both cases to be avowedly propagandist, to expose the falsity of others. These artists demand a licence to expose the lies of others. This is the ultimate *trahison des clercs*. In my view the same goes for the portrayal of du Pré as a genius of unredeemed nastiness.

When art has exhausted its imaginative powers and has to borrow real people from real life, it should accept the disciplines of history and journalism. These are not only the laws of libel, but codes and protocols of accuracy, fairness and respect for the dignity and privacy of individuals, both living and dead. Of course journalism often falls far short of these disciplines, but it at least acknowledges a framework of self-discipline. Film-makers respect nothing. Constrained only by laws against defaming living persons (letting Daniel Barenboim off the *Hilary and Jackie* hook), they can lie with impunity and without redress.

Art's rejoinder to this purism is to cry Censorship! It depends what we mean by the censor, a wolf who comes in many disguises. The ITC was "censoring" Carlton in fining it for its drugs story. The laws of libel and racial and religious discrimination are censorship. So too are those controlling copyright, advertising and public decency. On this basis alone the British Board of Film Classification should surely demand the removal of the words "true story" from films which are blatantly nothing of the sort. At very least it should have a new MU certificate, meaning Mostly Untrue.

Yet censorship is not the best defence against artistic mendacity. It is the worst. The best defence is to declare its lies from the rooftops. By all means let Hilary give her version of her sister's sad tale, if she must. By all means add in the sex, the profanity, the terminal illness and Elgar's Cello Concerto, if they are the only means to an audience. By all means call the product art. But the rest of us need not stand on the ceremony of that art. Truth comes first. If film-makers claim a licence to damn the living and the dead, they must get damnation in return.

comment@the-times.co.uk

astonishing £2 million by the Independent Television Commission for including fabricated material in a documentary on drug trafficking. "The deception," said the ITC, "involved a wholesale breach of trust between the programme-makers and the viewers." The company did not disagree, gulped and paid up. Film journalists who make offerings at the altar of history are tested by stern standards. Not so feature film-makers. I venture to suggest that if Carlton had sent its work round to Channel 4 and claimed it to be a "true story" art film, it would not have been fined for fabrication, but showered with praise and lottery cash.

The cobbler should stick to his last. Art's contribution to history is to reveal its hidden strands through the prism of fiction. The wrongs of British policy in Northern Ireland were more effectively exposed in *The Crying Game* than by Mr Sheridan's Guildford Four fiction. The best study of Watergate was the fictional *Washington, Behind Closed Doors*, not the many films depicting Nixon as a monster and purporting to tell "the truth". Admirers of du Pré know that the most moving evocation of a musician's struggle against multiple sclerosis was in Tom Kempinski's fine play, *Duet for One*. For all the interviews given by the makers of *Hilary and Jackie*, their motive is unclear. If it was meant as a fictional study of the agony of genius, why drag a real person's character through the mud? If it was to be a biography of du Pré—as it seems to the public—surely there was some obligation to accuracy and balance?

When art thus moves its tanks on to the lawn of truth, the defenders seem to turn and run. The so-called drama documentaries by Stone and Sheridan were far more culpable acts of public deception than the



Simon Jenkins

I once wrote an article in which I unwittingly told an untruth about a public figure. I had suggested that he was present at a meeting when he was not, and thus wrongly attributed to him an unworthy decision. The accusation was not grievous and no great harm was done. But I was wrong. Both the law and the code of practice required me to apologise and make amends. Even when racing the clock, journalists must build on a foundation of truth. I might have dismissed the complaint on the ground that mine was a work of art. I might have pleaded that my prose strove not after a spurious and small-minded accuracy, but after the "divine melodious truth" of the nightingale that is forever Fleet Street. I would have been carried off to the Clinic. Carlton was recently fined an

'Proud, patriotic, high-minded and diligent — unmistakably British down to his bowler hat and blazer'

Defining what makes Brits British is the latest trivial pursuit for politicians. An historical criterion for Britishness uses things that we are all supposed to do together, such as bumping on horseback after foxes, despising the French and hating the Pope. We might call this the unification principle. But its flaw is that today at least as many Brits shudder at fox-hunters, admire the French and revere the Pope.

A better criterion for Britishness is the insularity principle. This selects the things that Britons do that nobody else in the world would dream of copying, like cold baths in midwinter, regimental blazers with brass buttons and opening the bedroom window at night, especially when there is a freezing gale. Such as:

1. Bread pudding. We find this mess of bread, hot milk and

cloves essential for eating with birds. Nobody else in the world agrees with us.

2. There are many similar national delicacies that define Britishness: Marmite, kippers, plum pudding, fish and chips soaked in vinegar, mushy peas, bloaters, mint sauce with lamb, "Gentlemen's relish" and all other such fish pastes, pork scratchings, powdered custard, digestive biscuits half covered in chemical chocolate.

3. Lesser breeds celebrate Christmas with *foie gras* and oysters, Chateaubriand and venison, and other unseasonal foods. Americans eat their native bird for Thanksgiving, cooked with style and cranberries. Only the British fortify the cottonwool fowl for Christmas with chipolata sausages and Brussels sprouts.

4. Only the British guzzle Brussels sprouts. Not even the

Belgians will touch them.

5. It is a cliché that Britons drink beer at warmer than room temperature while standing up. But if we do secure a stool at the bar, it is our custom to spread our elbows and conversation to block anyone else from approaching the bar to give his order. More authoritarian countries would arrange to serve beer at tables, or at least plain bits of the bar red to keep it clear for orders.

6. Of course Britons invented team sports and games. Other nations are better at them today. A surprising number of them play cricket. But we are unrivalled at the stupidity, cheating and venality of our sportsmen, the egos, bungs and incompe-

Philip Howard



tence of our sports administrators, and the tribal behaviour of supporters. The only sport that nobody in the world bothers to play other than us is croquet.

7. Pantomime is alien to aliens. It may be descended from the *commedia dell'arte* and echo the last enchantments of the music hall. But it has declined a long way from them. Foreigners find pantomime absurd, coarse, distasteful and incomprehensible.

8. Who but the British would pay even a penny for crackers? What sentiment being enjoys wearing a paper hat, reading a pathetic motto, blowing a whistle, throwing streamers and receiving a "free gift" of plastic of no ascertainable purpose?

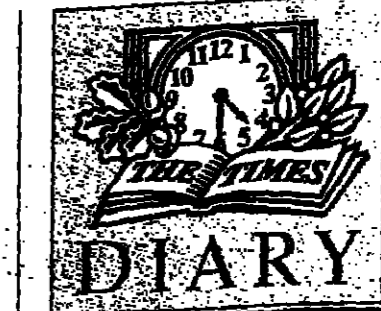
9. Other nations send their naughty children to boarding school and regard teaching as a noble profession. The British send away their richest, most privileged and most socially upwardly mobile little darlings.

10. Only the Brits would dream of wearing bowler hats (mainly in Ulster these days, with rolled umbrellas). Ulsters, scratchy tweed knickerbockers, green (now yellow) wellies, club ties of distasteful colours such as MCC, and collar pins. These are all intended as marks of tribal distinction. They show that the wearer belongs to something, and, more important, that you are excluded. Englishwomen wear tweed nightdresses to show that bed is for the serious business of snoring on a hot water bottle, not for decadent continental hanky-panky.

11. At his best the Briton can be high-minded, diligent, patriotic,

proud, humorous and virtuous. At his worst the Briton can be virtuous, humorous, proud, patriotic, diligent and high-minded.

12. It is remarkable that no other nations copy us in these or other insular particularities, such as the peagee and the horribly unfair custom of primogeniture. But that is their bad luck. The banal conclusion to the popular quest for Britishness is that our mongrel peoples include every peculiarity under the sun. That foreigners are odd. Shakespeare defined us. "England, hedged in with the main, / That water-walled bulwark, still secure / And confident from foreign purposes..." There is the Channel now. And we have become less xenophobic. Some of us can like foreigners, even if they are not waiters or au pairs. But the defining characteristic of Britishness is still, smug, doty insularity.



Baby reds

BABY BALLS are to be taken to the heart of the Labour Establishment. Its most glamorous couple are about to embark on the founding of a dynasty. Yvette Cooper (right) wife of Ed Balls, Gordon Brown's sharpshooter, is expecting in June. The MP is the latest "Blair babe" to reproduce. She follows Claire Curtis-Thomas, Debra Shipley, Jacqui Smith and Ruth Kelly (left). Yvette purrs: "This year is going to be big for Ed and me. We are really pleased. The only problem is I couldn't drink much over Christmas to celebrate."

Ever a power person, Cooper has told her local party she will campaign in the European elections until she drops. Poor baby.



● KATE THORNTON of Top of the Pops pedigree has attacked general Cheltenham. She suggests that the twee spa town is really home for white trash. "Not being pregnant by 14 made me stand out," she says. "I suffered bullying. When I go back home I live past those people in my nice car. I see them pushing their buggies and I think 'Well, who's the smart one?'"

Tory benefit

KNOW a Conservative in need? A fund for distressed Tory folk is being wound up by Sir Archibald Hamilton's 1922 Committee. The search has started for worthy final recipients and as the party lost 171 seats last time there could be a few takers. The fund was established in 1975 to help former Tory members and their surviving spouses who find themselves in difficulty.

Marion Roe, MP, chief pension officer, says: "The House has its own arrangements now. We are looking to distribute the balance, so anyone who knows of worthy causes, contact us." Make the queue orderly now, please.

A PORTRAIT of Hitler by that

thirsty dog, Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, is being flogged by his widow. It's a riot of missing features mired in yellow and blue. Lady Sam became chief beneficiary of Nicky's will on his deathbed, at the expense of his daughters. Lady S is to emigrate to Mexico having enjoyed a stint in a drying-out clinic. Life threatens to be economical: the work should raise £60.



Euro stars?

WILL the Ashdowns join that other couple in Brussels who never made it, the Kinnocks? Tony Blair, I hear, has suggested to Paddy that should he want Sir Leon Brittan's job at the Euro Commission, it is his. Although one of the Brussels sinecures normally goes to a Tory, it is not obligatory.

Also uncertain about his future: dear Alan Beith. He has campaigned discreetly to replace Betty Boothroyd as Speaker. After Wednesday's news, he made it clear that "now is not the time" to discuss the succession — code, I feel, for "I'm mad for it".

● UNLIKELY cronies. Alan Clark tells me he "adores" that gentle soul Alastair Campbell and thinks "he should be PM". Well, he almost is. The admiration is returned. Campbell has been heard to say that he knows what the Tories think as he has "spoken to Al the only one with a brain".

Odd couple

SHOULD be fun to see how Lord Wakeham and Gerald Kaufman rub along on the Lords Royal Commission...The two clashed a year ago when Gerald ventured that John was a "stuntman" while Wakeham said the MP was "an expert at offensive remarks".

JASPER GERARD



THE POTENT TAXPAYER

Viagra sparks a welcome debate on who pays for what

A diamond-shaped blue pill has stimulated a long overdue debate about the National Health Service. By proposing that the anti-impotence drug Viagra should be restricted to men with serious disabilities, the Health Secretary, Frank Dobson, has implicitly accepted what others have long acknowledged: treatments provided by the NHS need to be rationed by means beyond that of the waiting list. A Health Secretary is now openly meddling with doctors' freedom to prescribe according to clinical need. He is limiting patients' universal right to free treatment. For this Mr Dobson deserves praise. Instead of protesting, the medical profession should help Mr Dobson to devise new, fresh ideas about how to fund the NHS and meet public demand.

A worthwhile debate demands candour. As recently as Monday Mr Dobson stated that treatment is given "according to individual need, not a preordained entitlement" — a view to which yesterday's decision runs counter. Doctors should acknowledge that, as there are not limitless resources to fund the NHS, setting priorities is necessary. The question is who should set them, and on what terms? Are contraceptives, or treatments to tackle obesity, to be classed as "lifestyle drugs", despite the public and medical good they may bring? And who is in a position to ordain that a man with six months to live should not be given an expensive new drug that might give him another year of life on the ground of cost alone?

These decisions are already being taken in a confused, chaotic manner and behind closed Whitehall and health authority doors. So-called "postcode prescribing", where a treatment is available under one health authority but not another, appears to be an established practice. In East Norfolk, doctors are allowed to prescribe a drug for motor neurone disease that can

prolong sufferers' lives by three to six months. In neighbouring Suffolk, patients have to pay for it themselves. Universality of provision may be a good political catchphrase but it rings hollow in a growing number of regions.

The emergence of new drugs and the genetics revolution threaten to exacerbate this problem. The Government hopes to pass other difficult decisions to the new National Institute for Clinical Excellence. This body's task is to iron out inconsistencies in health provision by judging whether new drugs should be available on the NHS on the grounds of efficacy, and then provide national clinical guidance. While national guidelines will be welcome, decisions affecting patients will be taken by remote government advisers, not doctors or surgeons. Ministers cannot expect that this new quango will address the fundamental conundrum: however much taxpayers' money is spent on health, the public's expectations will never be met. Rationing cannot be addressed by ministers wondering "how can we provide the best service?". Instead, they should be asking "What is the public prepared to pay for and how?"

Mr Dobson should consider health systems in other countries, where people are required to pay for some or all of their treatment depending on medical need: serious illnesses are treated free, while inessential drugs must be paid for. The Government should encourage individuals to take more responsibility for their own wellbeing by encouraging private medical insurance. In a more transparent system, where people are insured against misfortune, the prospect of paying for prescriptions is less likely to provoke such dismay. So long as the public is shielded from the true costs of treatment, the demands on the NHS will go on soaring, leaving Mr Dobson impotent to respond.

JUST JUDGES

Zimbabwe's courts take liberty's side against torturers

The illegal detention and torture of two Zimbabwean journalists by the military is chilling. The Government of President Mugabe has never been tolerant of dissent. But it seems increasingly ready to use unlawful intimidation against its growing number of critics. Yet the journalists' appalling treatment has also elicited vigorous protest from churches, unions and intellectuals and brought out the best in the country's civil institutions, notably the courts. Mark Chavunduka, the Editor of Zimbabwe's leading independent newspaper, *The Standard*, and Ray Choto, a senior *Standard* reporter, probably owe their lives to the perseverance of their publisher, Clive Wilson, and their lawyer, and to the determination of two brave judges to uphold the law.

The two men still face trial, under a section of the 1960 Law and Order Maintenance Act framed under white rule with the express purpose of suppressing freedom of speech, for causing "alarm and despondency". All charges should now be dropped. The journalists have been subjected to hideous tortures, including electric shocks, burns, beatings and the "submarine" method of water suffocation. The accuracy or otherwise of the *Standard's* news report by which both stand, that 23 soldiers had been arrested for inciting others to a military coup is a minor matter compared with the flagrant contempt of court shown not only by the military who detained them, but by Mwenemahachi, Zimbabwe's powerful Defence Minister.

Under Zimbabwean law, civilians suspected of an offence can be arrested only by the police, who must grant them access to a lawyer and their family and produce them in court to be charged within 48 hours. Last Thursday, two days after Mr Chavunduka

was detained by the military and held incommunicado, Judge George Smith ruled in the High Court that the military had no jurisdiction over him and ordered his release. The Defence Ministry refused, handing him over to police custody only on Monday, after Judge James DeVitrie announced that if he was not brought to court, he would order the arrest of Mr Mahachi and his principal aide that night. When Mr Choto then came out of hiding to give himself up to the police, the military seized both men and tortured them continuously for 24 hours in an attempt to force them to divulge their sources.

Mr Choto believed his torturers when they told him that the President had signed his death warrant. What all Zimbabweans believe is that Mr Mahachi, who is close to Mr Mugabe, would not have defied the courts unless he believed that he had the President's approval. Mr Mugabe keeps his Cabinet on a tight rein. Many will also believe that the news report must have had real substance to provoke so extreme a reaction. This has not been confined to *The Standard*; police in the southern town of Masvingo have arrested an officer of the feared Central Intelligence Organisation for beating up journalists in three news organisations. The ill-paid military's discontent, which common knowledge has been sharpened by its heavy casualties in the deeply unpopular Zimbabwean military intervention in Congo's civil war.

President Mugabe's only credible course now is to dismiss his Defence Minister, court-martial the soldiers concerned and drop all charges against *The Standard*. Unless he disowns this disgraceful act, he will be indelibly associated with it, and his *fin de règne* will become more unstable and threatening than it already is.

WORLD WIDE HONOUR

The new and lasting memorial of the Web

When they were buried, their memory was kept alive by the most enduring means known to man — with simple lettering in stone above their graves. Line after line of such headstone is ranged in French and Belgian war cemeteries. Where there was once mud, rubble and blood, there are now some of the world's most poignant resting places, where Commonwealth soldiers who fell in two world wars lie buried. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission promised that "their name liveth for evermore". But time and distance have separated families from the records of their long-fallen loved ones.

The commission has now made imaginative use of a new and unexpected tool, for tracing and remembering those who fell, the Internet. Since the Debt of Honour Register was posted on the net just before Armistice Day, more than four million people have visited the site. The Commission has been flooded with follow-up inquiries. In the first ten days alone, some 250,000 people from all over the world sought details of relatives and long-fallen friends. Interest has also been stimulated by the recent wave of books and films about the First World War, the moving interviews with the last members of the generation that fought in the trenches and last November's commemorations of the 80th anniversary of the Armistice.

The Commonwealth War Graves Com-

mission has deservedly earned praise over the years for the meticulous care with which it tends the graves of 1.78 million soldiers who lie in 3,000 foreign fields in some 150 countries. When it was established, it took the early and controversial decision that in the remembrance of death all are equal. No family was allowed to purchase a larger plot, no Briton to have a better headstone than a subject soldier from the Empire, no officer to be marked out from his men.

The commission's Internet site has properly preserved this spirit. Each entry has the same format, dignity and accompanying history. Each upholds the promise to "defeat the oblivion of time".

History best comes alive when it touches human lives. Family history is often lost in a modern world where neighbourhoods are more likely to change and younger generations less likely to keep in touch. Family Bibles are rarer and parish records less comprehensive. Yet the need to trace our roots is as strong as ever. So, too, is the yearning to unravel the mysteries of how missing relatives died and what happened to the uncles and grandfathers who went to war and never returned. Searches that used to take years are now possible in a trice; questions can be answered and pride in sacrifice rekindled. For this, as for its unstinting work in tending the dead, the commission deserves high praise.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

MEPs' power and will to censure the Commission

From Mr Roy Perry, MEP for Wight and Hampshire South (European People's Party Group (Conservative))

Sir, The analysts by William Rees-Mogg of the role played by Labour MEPs, most especially Pauline Green, in actually saving the present European Commission was particularly sharp (article, January 18; see also letters, January 16). Mrs Green indeed said at the very outset that she tabled a censure motion with the intention to vote against it. No one can be surprised that she ultimately applied the tactic of withdrawing her motion.

However, Mr Blair has another option to show whether he really believes Mme Cresson or Senior Marin have fallen short of the standards expected of them. Under Clause 160 of the Treaty of Rome the Council may apply to the European Court of Justice to compulsorily retire a commissioner. That is a power so far denied to the Parliament.

It is a pity that, unlike the European Parliament which is at least open in its processes, the Council of Ministers is totally closed and we need never know whether Tony Blair or any of the other ministers has the courage to make such a move.

Yours faithfully,
ROY J. PERRY
Tarrant Farmhouse, West Wellow,
Romsey, Hampshire SO51 6DA,
January 18.

From Mrs Pauline Latham

Sir, I was in Strasbourg for the whole of last week, shadowing the Conservative MEP, Giles Chichester. I witnessed at first hand not only an MEP's way of life but also what happened during the week, culminat-

ing in the vote on Thursday on whether to censure the Commission.

National governments did indeed put enormous pressure on their MEPs not to vote for the motion of censure. The Socialist group in the European Parliament, led by British Labour MEP, Pauline Green, withdrew rather than upset their friends.

The resolve of the Conservative MEPs, led by Edward McMillan-Scott, did not waver. They voted for censure because they do not believe that fraud and mismanagement should be condoned.

I'm sure that, if voters think that our Labour MEPs are happy to sweep things under the carpet, they will re-examine their loyalties at the European elections in June and prefer to endorse the decisive, clear line on fraud demonstrated by the Conservative MEPs.

Yours faithfully,
PAULINE LATHAM
(Prospective Conservative European Parliamentary Candidate for the East Midlands),
Heron Wood, Vicarage Lane,
Little Eaton, Derby DE21 5EA,
January 18.

From Mr Peter R. Wiles

Sir, The European Parliament had an opportunity to widen its powers and control over the Commission last week, and flunked it.

The Government is busy ensuring that we voters won't have the opportunity to vote for MEPs who may take a more robust line in future. Our best riposte is to let the next lot be elected on a turnout of under 10 per cent. Members of political parties might want to drag themselves to the polling booths to vote for their party's list, but

I can't for the life of me see why anyone else should bother.

Yours faithfully,
PETER R. WILES,
33 Pinewoods, Church Aston,
Newport, Shropshire TF10 9LN,
peter.wiles@icweb.com

From Mr Alf Lomas, MEP
for London North East (Party of European Socialists Group (Labour))

Sir, I agree largely with the article by William Rees-Mogg but, when he criticised Labour MEPs for voting against the motion of censure on the Commission, he might have mentioned that there were five who did not obey the whip.

Three Labour MEPs, including myself, voted for the motion of censure and two others abstained. Not many, I concede, but there are still a few free spirits left.

Yours sincerely,
ALF LOMAS,
Ground Floor, Queensway House,
275/285 High Street,
Stratford, E15 2TF,
January 19.

From Mr Norman Shelmerdine

Sir, The British Government should immediately stop all financial payments to the Commission until such time as adequate controls are in force.

The problem would soon be resolved, especially if other similar-minded countries follow our lead.

Yours faithfully,
N. A. SHELMERDINE,
Bracken, St Catherine's,
Hook Heath, Woking,
Surrey GU24 0HW,
January 18.

Pinochet supporters

From Señor Sebastián Allina and others

Sir, We write on behalf of 34 pro-Pinochet demonstrators (report, January 19). We have been standing outside the British Houses of Parliament in order to make it clear to the British law lords and the British authorities that many Chileans want General Pinochet freed, so that the reconciliation process in Chile can continue undamaged.

We are not being paid to participate in this demonstration of support. We were able to achieve low-price air fares and accommodation by travelling as a group and these arrangements were negotiated by pro-Pinochet groups in Chile.

The money we are spending is a lot more worthwhile than the British taxpayers' money that is being wasted supporting the Spanish Government's attempt to extradite the man who brought back democracy to Chile.

Yours faithfully,
SEBASTIÁN ALLINA,
JUAN ARIZTIA,
RAUL MANES CATALON,
FRESIA GONZALEZ,
SOL LETELLIER,
TECO RUIZ,
c/o PO Box 15, London SW6 3TU,
January 21.

'Shaming' of doctor

From Dr Robert M. H. Lefever

Sir, I am no defender of doctors. Next week I am giving evidence to the General Medical Council in the case of a doctor against whom I myself have brought a complaint for malpractice.

However, I am concerned by the case of Dr William Huthbert (report, January 20) who was "named and shamed" by the Commons Public Administration Select Committee. He has already expressed deep remorse for his error of clinical judgment in this particular case and has apologised several times. What more do they want? The end of his career?

Sincerely,
ROBERT LEFEVER,
2a Felham Street, SW7 3HU,
January 20.

Africa's legacy

From Mr Alan Forward

Sir, Your leading article (January 8) says "Britain could have ruled Africa better and left it better", and the High Commissioner of Kenya (letter, January 18) accuses those who colonised Africa of "eliminating native populations and the outright suppression of basic human rights". In fact, British governments over many years were engaged in preparing African countries for independence; what other Empire has adopted such a policy?

You also rightly draw attention to Africans' courageous opposition to day "in the judiciary and the Churches, parts of the hounded press and many a village" to misrule. Is such opposition not part of Britain's legacy?

Christianity, justice, democracy, education, journalism and advances in medicine, as well as political and economic development, were all part of the legacy. In Uganda, for example, we ruled for only 68 years from the declaration of the protectorate in 1894 to independence in 1962. Now, 37 years later, it might be concluded that we could have left Uganda better if we had left it later.

Many Ugandans, and Kenyans too,

Rising through the Army ranks

From Major-General John Stokoe,
Deputy Commander-in-Chief,
Land Command

Sir, Mr John Douce's letter (January 12; see also letters, January 18) has prompted me to contribute to the ill-informed debate begun by Major Eric Joyce, in which the latter alleges that the Army is officered by a senior social "elite". This is not the Army I recognise and is not the one in which I serve.

I find little of real substance in Major Joyce's sterile and outdated thesis. I attended a state grammar school before joining the Army as a 15-year-old apprentice in 1963. After three years I graduated to the Regular Army as a Lance Corporal, achieving a place at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst a year later and a subsequent commission. Thirty years on, and 51 years old, I am a Major-General — a position gained on merit pursuing a career I have enjoyed to the full. There are many ex-boy soldiers leading equally fulfilling careers as commissioned officers.

I relate this to demonstrate that the Army is a true meritocracy where men and women succeed entirely on ability.

Lessons on longevity

From Professor R. A. Weale

Sir, Neither your excellent two-page feature, "Time to stop the tyranny of ageism", nor your amusing leading article, "Ever young" (both January 11), so much as hints at the fact that one of the most ageing institutions at the present time is the NHS.

Medical records show the patient's name followed by his/her date of birth. One may well ask what this piece of information is intended to convey. As a device for facilitating a diagnosis it must be suspect, and as one for inducing stereotypical thinking it should be deprecated.

Chronological and biological ages rarely coincide, and patients would be better served by judgments based on the latter, even if this means a greater demand on the medical thought processes or even a change in clinical

I am shortly to join the board of the new Army Foundation College at Harrogate, where I served my apprenticeship when it was an apprentice college. I can think of no more satisfying a task than to be involved in a college which is training high-quality young men and women from many diverse backgrounds, knowing, through personal experience, that amongst them will be some of our future senior officers.

Yours etc,
JOHN STOKOE,
Erskine Barracks,
Wilton, Salisbury SP2 0AG,
January 18.

From Lance Corporal P. Sichel (ret'd)
Sir, Colonel Charles Wilson (ret'd) states that "nothing stands in the way of every man in the Army reaching his ceiling". Very probably true, but who determines the altitude of the ceiling? Probably the very same people who have always done so.

Yours faithfully,
PETER SICHEL,
130 Watling Street, Wellington,
Telford, Shropshire TF1 2NH,
sichel@globalnet.co.uk,
January 18.

training. The worship of the calendar extends to relatively trivial fields.

Professor Tom Kirkwood expresses some concern about his eyesight. Your photograph suggests that he is short-sighted; even so, in a few years he may need reading glasses, and it is very probable that they will not be prescribed on the basis of his visual need but on his chronological age.

The key to this is a set of tables based on outmoded and heavily criticised data obtained by an American eye specialist during the first quarter of this century. When Professor Kirkwood starts needing reading glasses, and is asked his age, his reply should be that he has forgotten.

Yours very truly,
R. A. WEALE,
King's College London,
Cornwall House,
Waterloo Road, SE1 8WA,
January 12.

The Northern Province of Kenya, for instance, is today the scene of much banditry, murders and cattle-raiding; yet for the 30 or 40 years preceding the country's independence the province was controlled by no more than 20 administrators and a few police officers, who spent much of their time on safari showing the flag and stamping out small outbreaks of lawlessness before they spread.

There are no quick or easy solutions to the problems of African government. If the opposition is potentially corrupt, democracy will not help, though a free press will. The only solution is to teach the principles of good government in schools, universities, churches, and on the job.

It is little use for Western governments to try to beat African countries into shape with sticks. Aid should be focused on teaching good government — together with family planning, to ensure that the rate of population growth does not exceed the rate of economic growth.

Yours etc,
O. S. KNOWLES
(Acting Permanent Secretary,
Kenya Ministry of Finance, 1967),
11 Cuxham Road,
Watlington, Oxfordshire OX9 5JW.

Voluntary code to check on nannies

From the Editor of
The Professional Nanny

Sir, Before their experiences with a bumbling Australian article, "Why parents must be wary", January 19, Joe Joseph's family had employed a "string of wonderfully reliable" nannies and this one's immediate predecessor had been "brilliant". However, it was the problems of this one nanny that merited publicity — good nannies are simply not newsworthy.

The Government's newly announced voluntary code will only go some way towards boosting nannies' status. A Kitemark will be awarded to agencies which guarantee to interview nannies face-to-face and check their CVs and references — formalising a procedure many agencies already insist on and good nannies are more than happy to submit to.

The fact remains that many parents still either do not use agencies or employ inappropriate forms of childcare, such as an au pair or mother's help, to do a nanny's job. When something goes wrong the press is once again full of "nanny from hell" stories.

This does not, of course, diminish the sheer awfulness of the Sullivan case, nor of any other case where a child is damaged by her carer. Most nannies, however, see themselves as professionals and despair of the way in which their profession is portrayed in the media.

Yours faithfully,
JUDITH CALVER,
Editor, *The Professional Nanny*,
Admiral House,
66-68 East Smithfield, E1 9XY,
judith.calver@netnet.co.uk,
January 19.

Du Pré film

From Mr John Burgess

Sir, There needs to be no special pleading by Julian Lloyd Webber and his co-signatories on behalf of the late Jacqueline du Pré (letter, January 20; features, January 21). Her contribution to music is quite unsullied and fortunately available for all to hear; her sex life and character, although possibly colourful and flawed respectively, are not relevant to her musicianship or lifetime achievement.

However, musicians, particularly those with a high public profile, run the same risks as politicians in conducting their private lives. They should beware of the risks they run and either moderate their behaviour, or take the appropriate precautions to ensure continuing confidentiality.

I remain, Sir,
yours faithfully,
JOHN BURGESS,
65 Ham Close, Holt,
Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA1 4PY,
jb.burgess@brightforce9.co.uk,
January 20.

From the Chief Executive
of Film Four Ltd

Sir, Julian Lloyd Webber and others object in their letter today to the portrayal of Jacqueline du Pré in the film *Hilary and Jackie*. This organisation co-financed the film, and our records indicate that four of the six signatories have not actually seen it. I would suggest that people make their own minds up as to the quality, success and, in particular, tone of the film rather than be swayed by the prejudices of others.

Yours etc,
PAUL WEBSTER,
Chief Executive, Film Four Ltd,
124 Horseferry Road, SWP 2TX,
January 20.

After Ashdown

From Mr Rhodri Morgan, MP
for Cardiff West (Labour)

Sir, Following the departure of Paddy Ashdown as its leader (reports and leading article, January 21), can we expect that the Liberal Democrat Party under his successor will change its policy of "constructive opposition" to the Government to one of destructive co-operation?

Yours,
RHODRI MORGAN,
House of Commons,
January 21.

Chambers wit

From Ms Helen Grayson

Sir, My favourite entry in *Chambers* (letters, January 12, 18, and 19) is the one for Japanese cedar: "A very tall Japanese conifer (*Cryptomeria japonica*) often dwarfed by Japanese gardeners."

Yours faithfully,
HELEN GRAYSON,
39 St James Terrace,
Horsforth, Leeds LS18 5QT,
petulfield@cx.computlink.co.uk

From Mr Adam Ogilvie-Smith

Sir, My edition of *Chambers Dictionary* notes that a picture restorer is someone who "cleans and restores and sometimes ruins old pictures".

Yours faithfully,
ADAM OGILVIE-SMITH,
Hyde House, Longworth,
Oxfordshire OX13 5HH,
January 21.

OBITUARIES

JACQUES LECOQ

Jacques Lecoq, mime artist, theatre director and teacher, died on January 19 aged 77. He was born in Paris on December 15, 1921.

From Etienne Decroux in *Les Enfants du Paradis* to Marcel Marceau, France has given the world some of its most memorable images of the white-faced, poignant or comic mime. Jacques Lecoq was never a public figure, and almost never appeared on the large or small screen, and yet he belongs among the most significant exponents of an art form that he preferred to call, not mime, but corporeal expression.

He was, above all, a great teacher. The school that he founded in 1956, and which continues to this day, trained some 130 students a year in the art of using the body to expressive effect. Lecoq was not interested in turning out classic mimes or actors, but in developing the resources of physical vocabulary, with or without speech. His two-year course explored such areas as silent improvisation, ("I ask them to say nothing the better to understand what lies behind words"), the use of masks, techniques of movement and the spirit of comedy, melodrama and tragedy. No doubt the focus on unspoken expression was all the more acute for the cosmopolitan mix of English, French, German, Swedish, Italian, American and other nationalities (70 in all) attending the courses at 57, Rue du Faubourg Saint-Denis, in northern Paris.

Those who learnt from the Lecoq way with actors form an



Lecoq: developing the resources of physical vocabulary

equally rich and varied list. Among them are the members of the Theatre de Complicite, Pochmann, Mummenschaun, Steven Berkoff, Geoffrey Rush (Oscar winner for *Shine*), the writers Yasmina Reza (author of *Art*) and Eduardo Manet, and directors Christophe Marthaler, Jorge Lavelli, Luc Bondy and Ariane Mnouchkine of the Theatre du Soleil. "I wasn't at his courses for long," Mnouchkine has said, "but it was as important to me as if I had spent ten years there."

From an early practice of sport and sports teaching, Lecoq developed a keen aware-

ness of the body and its mechanisms. During the Second World War, when training as a physical education instructor in Paris, he met Jean-Louis Barraut and the founders of Education through Drama (L'Education par le Jeu Dramatique), which involved a number of other key figures of postwar French theatre, such as Roger Blin and Marie-Hélène Dasté. Linked with Antonin Artaud, the movement aimed to explore a new theatrical approach to the body and the voice.

Lecoq's own interest in the stage grew in 1945 from his

involvement with Travail et Culture alongside Yves Robert and the Frères Jacques. He now began working with Jean Dasté's troupe in Grenoble, acting as a kind of teacher of movement and gesture. From Dasté he learnt about Noh and the use of masks.

It was, already, a cosmopolitan career. In 1947, Lecoq taught theatrical expression in Germany, then in the following year went to Padua where he found a sculptor, Amleto Sartori, who agreed to make *commedia dell'arte* masks for him. He also became close to Giorgio Strehler, for whom he set up the Piccolo Teatro theatre school. At the same time he befriended Dario Fo and did the occasional job at Cinecittà.

Coming back to France, Lecoq now set about creating his own mime school, one that would offer an alternative to what he saw as the "sclerotic" technique of Etienne Decroux, and which accepted a greater crossover than his contemporary, Marcel Marceau. The aim was, he said, to move "towards open mime and not towards the mime which is enclosed in its own silence."

Students were taught a series of challenging physical exercises, from mastering their diaphragm to acrobatics, but always with a view to extending possibilities rather than developing some kind of physical virtuosity. A key phase of the training was learning to clown. One by one, students were asked to make their fellows laugh: their almost inevitable failure was the first step in learning a kind of authenticity. Being a clown, Lecoq would explain, "is not a role you learn; you are a

clown. So in the end the clown which belongs to them alone will be brought out... Once you can fully come to terms with what you are, your own territory, then you can make people laugh." In a similar way, using a neutral mask, Lecoq students learnt how the carriage and movements of the body could seem to impart expression to the otherwise blank face.

Ariane Mnouchkine has saluted Lecoq as a "master... but one who had that very rare ability to open up a path without necessarily having to take it himself." His own discretion was remarkable, and meant that he remained out of the public eye. Nor did Lecoq seek to be a guru: his school had other influential teachers, too. And while he did have his own one-man show, *Tout Change* ("Everything Moves"), in which "a lifetime" observation of body language is packed into 90 minutes, starting with the way we walk and ending with comic and tragic masks, performances were rare (he came to the Queen Elizabeth Hall in 1988). In France, finally, his statements on the theatre, *Le Corps poétique*, were published only last year, and he managed to oversee the first two documentaries about his work, *Les Deux Voyages de Jacques Lecoq*, shortly before his death.

His true heritage lies in the enrichment of theatrical forms to which he contributed, and it is to be hoped, in the continuing vitality of his school which will remain open.

He is survived by his second wife Fay, by their daughter and two sons, and by a son of his first marriage.

ANATOLI RYBAKOV

Anatoli Rybakov, Russian author, died in New York on December 23 aged 87. He was born on January 1, 1911.

"IMAGINE Genghis Khan with a telephone," reflected the ageing Tolstoy, inadvertently prophesying his country's plight in the grip of 20th-century totalitarian bureaucracy. The advent of that grim eventuality — Stalin with all the instruments of repression to hand in an age of instant communication — was the subject of *Children of the Arbat* (1987), Anatoli Rybakov's most celebrated novel.

Describing the lives of a group of young school-leavers, growing up as Rybakov did in the Arbat district of central Moscow and launching out on to the troubled waters of the 1930s, the novel evokes the grim atmosphere of Stalin's most paranoid, most fearsome years. Its account of the Stalin terror has invited comparison with *A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (1956). Some reviewers even saw a kinship to *War and Peace* in the complexity of its plotting and organisation of historical events.

But, in truth, Rybakov has much more in common with such American "blockbuster" historical novelists as James Michener and Herman Wouk, than with either Solzhenitsyn or Tolstoy. His fidelity to historical events is impressive, but his characters remain resolutely one-dimensional.

Indeed, though he eventually won fame through his graphic description of the Stalin years, he had begun his literary life in the postwar Soviet Union as a run-of-the-mill socialist-realist hack. Born in Chernigov, Ukraine, into an assimilated Jewish family, Anatoli Naumovich Rybakov grew up in Moscow and went from school to the Moscow Institute of Transport Engineering.

In November 1933 he was arrested and sent to Siberia for three years, but this was for no dissident activity. Stalin was merely in the early stages of the paranoia which was to lead to the full-scale terror and purges of the later 1930s. Rybakov and those arrested with him were later to realise how lucky they were to escape with such light punishment.

After completing his sentence Rybakov was allowed to return from Siberia. But he was barred from residence in

large towns and had to take a series of truck-driving jobs in rural areas. Call-up for army service after the German invasion in 1941 was almost a relief. He served as a transport officer with the 8th Guards Army for the rest of the war and was twice decorated.

While in the army he had begun to write, and he published his first novel, a children's adventure story entitled *Kortik* (translated as *The Dink*) in 1948. With its zealous child protagonist, Misha, who thwarts a White Russian plot against the nascent Soviet state to become the leader of

be published in the journal *Nov Mir*, whose courageous editor Alexander Tvardovsky had persuaded Khrushchev to let him publish Solzhenitsyn's *A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* in 1962.

But by that time the brief Khrushchev thaw was already over and as the conservative Leonid Brezhnev tightened his grip on the reins of Soviet power, the possibility receded even further. An announcement in the next decade that *Oktyabr* would publish the novel was equally illusory, and it was not until the era of Gorbachev that publication could become a reality.

A less obviously contentious, though in the view of many a more subtle, novel *Tyazhelye peski* (translated as *Heavy Sands*) was, however, published by *Oktyabr* in 1978. It had an ostensibly anti-German and therefore pro-Soviet theme, the atrocities committed against Ukrainian Jews by the invading German armies in 1941 and 1942. But in the anti-Semitic climate of the Soviet Union in the late 1970s the theme was not popular, and Rybakov had to tone it down to imply that the Germans had treated the Jews no worse than anyone else.

The advent of Gorbachev and *glasnost* obviated the need for such trimming. With the publication of *Children of the Arbat* Rybakov found himself an overnight celebrity. It was the first of a trilogy which laid the blame for the failures of Soviet communism squarely at the door of Stalin. Its successors, *Fear* (1992) and *Dust and Ashes* (1996), continued the story of Sasha, Fankratov, *Arbat's* protagonist. But by that time Russia was suffering such massive economic problems under a democratic regime that the impact of the criticism of Stalin no longer carried the same force. Many adults were beginning to hanker after the old times when "things worked".

Nevertheless, for young Russian children the novels remain an important part of the revised Soviet history in a way that the more complex works of Pasternak and Solzhenitsyn could not be. And to do him justice, Rybakov never claimed to be of the literary or moral stature of those two brave men.

Anatoli Rybakov is survived by his second wife Tatiana, and by the two sons of his first marriage.

GEORGE POPOV

George Popov, MBE, acridologist, died on December 22 aged 76. He was born on August 22, 1922.

GEORGE POPOV was one of the great scientific travellers of the past 50 years. He spent most of his life travelling around Asia and Africa studying locusts and grasshoppers. And in pursuit of his entomological interests he stealthily became perhaps the most intrepid traveller of his time in the Arabian Peninsula and the remotest regions of Asia and Africa.

In his early years he made an amazing crossing of the Jaz Murian depression in southern Iran in midsummer with a single donkey for company. His achievements were recognised by the award of the Lawrence of Arabia Memorial Medal in 1955 by the Royal Society of Asian Affairs, and in 1997 the Food and Agriculture Organisation in Rome awarded him a special medal for 50 years' work on locust control.

George Basil Popov was born of Russian parents in Mashhad in Iran, where his father worked in the Imperial Bank. After early studies at home he was educated at the American (Albany) College in

Tehran and at Tehran University. His father died at the outbreak of the Second World War, so he had to leave school. Being fluent in Russian, Farsi, French, English (and later Arabic), he became an interpreter. He was then recruited to work for the British Locust Control unit in southern Iran, and so began his lifelong research career. He next became a member of the British Middle East Anti-Locust Unit in 1943, based in Cairo, and from there he travelled extensively in Iran and Saudi Arabia.

After ten years with the Desert Locust Survey and Control Organisation, based in Nairobi, he joined the Food and Agriculture Organisation in Rome in 1958, as leader of a unit carrying out an ecological survey of the desert locust breeding areas from Senegal to Bangladesh and Georgia to Tanzania.

In 1964 he transferred to the Anti-Locust Research Centre in London (later the Centre for Overseas Pesticides Research), from where he undertook consultancies and projects on grasshopper research and control techniques in many parts of Africa and Asia, returning to Nairobi in 1982.

During the last major locust

outbreak, in 1985-90, he advised on monitoring and control methods, principally in the Sahelian countries of North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. He later conducted ground assessments and ecological surveys of the affected areas, leading to the establishment of a data centre and introduction of remote sensing imaging as an aid to monitoring locust populations. He also participated in tests of various insecticides and biological control agents in Mali between 1986 and 1988.

As well as lecturing widely he published more than 50 articles, becoming recognised as one of the foremost acridologists in the world. In 1951 he was appointed MBE.

He was an unassuming man with a delightful sense of humour, but his gentleness concealed a tough core. In recent years, he suffered considerable pain and discomfort from more than one form of cancer, but he showed tremendous courage, continuing to work and travel.

He never married, but had a firm link with a family from Mali now living in London, to whom he was devoted and who were a great support to him for many years.

MAJOR-GENERAL ROBERT LOUDOUN

Major-General Robert Loudoun, CB, OBE, Representative Colonel, Royal Marines, 1983-84, and Director of the Mental Health Foundation, 1971-90, died on December 28 aged 76. He was born on July 8, 1922.

BOB LOUDOUN's singularly active military career was more than matched by his achievements after retirement from the Royal Marines. Inspired by an affection for Yugoslavia, acquired during the war, he became in 1989 a director of the British Yugoslav Society. The focus of this institution was shifted by civil war from cultural and student exchanges towards relief aid. Loudoun and other war veterans — some of whom owed their lives to Tito's partisans —

raised funds which sent more than 25 trucks loaded with medical supplies to the stricken six republics. Many were driven by members of the society; at the age of 70 Loudoun himself took a truckload to Korcula, accompanied by the late Sir Fitzroy Maclean and his wife Veronica.

He had also joined the Mental Health Foundation at the time of its formation through the merger of the Mental Health Trust and the Mental Health Research Fund, and became its director in 1977. By the time he retired in 1990, he had raised the foundation's charitable income from about £50,000 a year to well over a million, providing funds for research projects and enabling innovative rehabilitation and community aftercare programmes.

Robert Beverley Loudoun



was educated at University College School, Hampstead, and joined the Royal Marines in late 1940, being selected for officer training in 1941. After the 2nd Battalion had been reorganised as No 43 Commando, it was sent to the Mediterranean in November 1943, and received a brief, effective and almost bloodless

initiation into modern warfare when leading the beach assault at the Anzio bridgehead in January 1944. Having captured its objectives, the commando was withdrawn and redeployed to take a hill on the Garigliano River, suffering its first fatalities.

Even tougher times were to follow. With other units, 43 Commando was sent to the Dalmatian island of Vis, from where it conducted a number of assaults against other islands, which were generally occupied by larger numbers of heavily armed Germans, well dug in.

In charge of the commando's C Company, Loudoun made his first attack on the island of Mljet, which but two days later, he took a launch back by night to recover two lost signalmen. He was then wounded during a costly at-

tack on the island of Brac, and was temporarily incapacitated. Brac was subsequently reinforced by more than 2,000 Germans, but a second assault was more successful, and by the autumn of 1944 the Germans had started to pull out of the Balkans.

In October, 43 Commando landed at Dubrovnik and took part in the harrying of the German retreat. After arduous advances against tenacious resistance, with much blowing up of roads and bridges behind the lines, the commando moved to Italy to rest and refit. Loudoun was mentioned in dispatches.

The commando's final major action of the war was the assault across the bleak marshes around Lake Comacchio near the coast north of Ravenna. Loudoun, who was by now adjutant, took part in a bitter and difficult battle throughout April 2 and 3, 1945, with little natural cover to help the advance across minefields towards well-prepared German positions. In this action, the Royal Marines' tenth Victoria Cross — and the only one of the Second World War — was posthumously awarded to Corporal Thomas Hunter.

Appointed to 45 Commando, Loudoun arrived in the Far East shortly after the end of hostilities and served in Hong Kong, Malaya, Africa and Palestine. He was granted a regular commission in 1948, thereafter following a conventional progression of appointments.

As a brigadier, his appointment embroiled him in Nato planning and exercises in Europe, including the initial reconnaissance of north Norway which heralded the Royal Marines' strategic shift to arctic warfare during the later decades of the Cold War.

As a major-general, his final tour was in command of Royal Marines training at Portsmouth, where he masterminded the move of the Royal Marines Museum to its splendid location at Eastney. He was appointed CBE on retirement in 1973.

He is survived by his wife Sue, whom he married in 1950, and their two sons.

PERSONAL COLUMN

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

CHARTER FLIGHTS
Winter Sun
0171 523 1227
We have the best prices

JETLINE

NEW YEAR SPECIALS
0171 360 1111

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PHOTOGRAPHERS David Mitchell, 10, St. John's Road, London W14 9NS. Tel: 0171 723 2706 or 0171 723 2707. Fax: 0171 723 2708. E-mail: d.mitchell@bt.com

RENTALS
FURNISHED 2 bed beds in 19th cent. house, 10, St. John's Road, London W14 9NS. Tel: 0171 723 2706 or 0171 723 2707. Fax: 0171 723 2708. E-mail: d.mitchell@bt.com

WEDDINGS J.C. West, Church of St. John, 10, St. John's Road, London W14 9NS. Tel: 0171 723 2706 or 0171 723 2707. Fax: 0171 723 2708. E-mail: d.mitchell@bt.com

WEDDINGS J.C. West, Church of St. John, 10, St. John's Road, London W14 9NS. Tel: 0171 723 2706 or 0171 723 2707. Fax: 0171 723 2708. E-mail: d.mitchell@bt.com

TRUSTEE ACTS

WEDDINGS J.C. West, Church of St. John, 10, St. John's Road, London W14 9NS. Tel: 0171 723 2706 or 0171 723 2707. Fax: 0171 723 2708. E-mail: d.mitchell@bt.com

WEDDINGS J.C. West, Church of St. John, 10, St. John's Road, London W14 9NS. Tel: 0171 723 2706 or 0171 723 2707. Fax: 0171 723 2708. E-mail: d.mitchell@bt.com

WEDDINGS J.C. West, Church of St. John, 10, St. John's Road, London W14 9NS. Tel: 0171 723 2706 or 0171 723 2707. Fax: 0171 723 2708. E-mail: d.mitchell@bt.com

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THESE SECTIONS PLEASE:
Telephone 0171 580 9678
Fax 0171 782 7830
Or Email: td.bush@bt.com

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

LEGAL NOTICES

ALL Estates All Estates of Robert Loudoun, died on December 28, 1990. The Executors are: Mrs. Robert Loudoun, 10, St. John's Road, London W14 9NS. Tel: 0171 723 2706 or 0171 723 2707. Fax: 0171 723 2708. E-mail: d.mitchell@bt.com

WEDDINGS J.C. West, Church of St. John, 10, St. John's Road, London W14 9NS. Tel: 0171 723 2706 or 0171 723 2707. Fax: 0171 723 2708. E-mail: d.mitchell@bt.com

WEDDINGS J.C. West, Church of St. John, 10, St. John's Road, London W14 9NS. Tel: 0171 723 2706 or 0171 723 2707. Fax: 0171 723 2708. E-mail: d.mitchell@bt.com

WEDDINGS

WEDDINGS J.C. West, Church of St. John, 10, St. John's Road, London W14 9NS. Tel: 0171 723 2706 or 0171 723 2707. Fax: 0171 723 2708. E-mail: d.mitchell@bt.com

WEDDINGS J.C. West, Church of St. John, 10, St. John's Road, London W14 9NS. Tel: 0171 723 2706 or 0171 723 2707. Fax: 0171 723 2708. E-mail: d.mitchell@bt.com

WEDDINGS J.C. West, Church of St. John, 10, St. John's Road, London W14 9NS. Tel: 0171 723 2706 or 0171 723 2707. Fax: 0171 723 2708. E-mail: d.mitchell@bt.com

WEDDINGS

WEDDINGS J.C. West, Church of St. John, 10, St. John's Road, London W14 9NS. Tel: 0171 723 2706 or 0171 723 2707. Fax: 0171 723 2708. E-mail: d.mitchell@bt.com

WEDDINGS J.C. West, Church of St. John, 10, St. John's Road, London W14 9NS. Tel: 0171 723 2706 or 0171 723 2707. Fax: 0171 723 2708. E-mail: d.mitchell@bt.com

WEDDINGS J.C. West, Church of St. John, 10, St. John's Road, London W14 9NS. Tel: 0171 723 2706 or 0171 723 2707. Fax: 0171 723 2708. E-mail: d.mitchell@bt.com

WEDDINGS

WEDDINGS J.C. West, Church of St. John, 10, St. John's Road, London W14 9NS. Tel: 0171 723 2706 or 0171 723 2707. Fax: 0171 723 2708. E-mail: d.mitchell@bt.com

WEDDINGS J.C. West, Church of St. John, 10, St. John's Road, London W14 9NS. Tel: 0171 723 2706 or 0171 723 2707. Fax: 0171 723 2708. E-mail: d.mitchell@bt.com

WEDDINGS J.C. West, Church of St. John, 10, St. John's Road, London W14 9NS. Tel: 0171 723 2706 or 0171 723 2707. Fax: 0171 723 2708. E-mail: d.mitchell@bt.com

WEDDINGS

WEDDINGS J.C. West, Church of St. John, 10, St. John's Road, London W14 9NS. Tel: 0171 723 2706 or 0171 723 2707. Fax: 0171 723 2708. E-mail: d.mitchell@bt.com

WEDDINGS J.C. West, Church of St. John, 10, St. John's Road, London W14 9NS. Tel: 0171 723 2706 or 0171 723 2707. Fax: 0171 723 2708. E-mail: d.mitchell@bt.com

WEDDINGS J.C. West, Church of St. John, 10, St. John's Road, London W14 9NS. Tel: 0171 723 2706 or 0171 723 2707. Fax: 0171 723 2708. E-mail: d.mitchell@bt.com

WEDDINGS

WEDDINGS J.C. West, Church of St. John, 10, St. John's Road, London W14 9NS. Tel: 0171 723 2706 or 0171 723 2707. Fax: 0171 723 2708. E-mail: d.mitchell@bt.com

WEDDINGS J.C. West, Church of St. John, 10, St. John's Road, London W14 9NS. Tel: 0171 723 2706 or 0171 723 2707. Fax: 0171 723 2708. E-mail: d.mitchell@bt.com

WEDDINGS J.C. West, Church of St. John, 10, St. John's Road, London W14 9NS. Tel: 0171 723 2706 or 0171 723 2707. Fax: 0171 723 2708. E-mail: d.mitchell@bt.com

WEDDINGS

WEDDINGS J.C. West, Church of St. John, 10, St. John's Road, London W14 9NS. Tel: 0171 723 2706 or 0171 723 2707. Fax: 0171 723 2708. E-mail: d.mitchell@bt.com

WEDDINGS J.C. West, Church of St. John, 10, St. John's Road, London W14 9NS. Tel: 0171 723 2706 or 0171 723 2707. Fax: 0171 723 2708. E-mail: d.mitchell@bt.com

WEDDINGS J.C. West, Church of St. John, 10, St. John's Road, London W14 9NS. Tel: 0171 723 2706 or 0171 723 2707. Fax: 0171 723 2708. E-mail: d.mitchell@bt.com

FIVE OLD WARSHIPS TO BE SCRAPPED

The Admiralty announcement of the decision to scrap all the battleships of pre-war years except those which are in use as accommodation ships must evoke regrets but no astonishment.

Officers and men come to have a sentimental affection for famous ships in which they have served, and the general public, remembering the names of ships that time after time had a part in sea battles or amphibious operations, hear of their passing with no less regret. But the times are gone when warships can be preserved, as Nelson's Victory survives nearly two centuries after she was floated out of the dock in which she was built. A 30,000-ton battleship calls for considerable overhauling and maintenance to keep her aloft, even if she is never again to go to sea.

Three of the five capital ships to go are veterans of the 1914 war — the *Queen Elizabeth*, *Valliant*, and *Renown*. The other two, the *Nelson* and *Rodney*, are

ON THIS DAY

January 22, 1948

The announcement that the battleships *Queen Elizabeth*, *Valliant*, *Nelson* and *Rodney* and the battle-cruiser *Renown* were to be scrapped may have evoked regret but perhaps no astonishment. Three were veterans of the First World War.

not much younger, for they were laid down in 1922; and though they both did magnificent service during the late war — the *Rodney* was one of the two ships that sank the *Bismarck* — they were never very satisfactory ships.

There is no hint in this action of any belief by the Admiralty that the day of the battleship as known hitherto is necessarily past. But though in the past obsolete or obsolescent capital ships have had a certain value in war it is difficult in the present state of the navies of the world to see any similar value for those that are to be scrapped today.

There will thus be little valid criticism of the Admiralty's decision to scrap these capital ships; but there may well be complaint of undue reticence regarding the action that is being taken in respect of other ships. Seven cruisers are to be scrapped, but the public is not to be allowed to know their names. A number of lesser warships are also to disappear under a similar veil. Parliament and public are not allowed to know the composition of the Royal Navy today, though it is doubtless well known to any foreign intelligence service that thinks it worth while to find out the facts.

THE TIMES

2

INSIDE
SECTION
2
TODAY

BUSINESS

Costly drug shares
offer no cure for
faltering market

PAGE 29

ARTS

Crazy name, crazy
guys: pop's
Barenaked Ladies

PAGES 32-35

MEDIA

More suffering
as Amanda
takes a walk

PAGES 36-39

TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
Pages
46, 47

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY JANUARY 22 1999

Board concedes defeat after buyer raises hostile offer and bags 38% stake Sears backs Green's £548m bid

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM
RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

SIR BOB REID, chairman of Sears, yesterday accepted an offer for the retail group worth £548 million, an increase of £29 million from Philip Green and the Barclay twins, David and Frederick.

After a day of talks between the two sides, the Sears board agreed to accept 35p a share from January Investments (JIL). It was set up for the bid by Mr Green and the Barclays.

and had a 340p a share bid rejected last week. Some late buying in the market ensured that by the end of the day, JIL owned 38 per cent of Sears. It already had 23 per cent of Sears in the bag after acceptance by Phillips & Drew last week. The shares closed at 354p.

Sir Bob said: "The increased cash offer of 35p per share represents a fair deal for shareholders and is in line with the board's strategy to return value to them."

Aidan Barclay, who is the son of David and chairman of

JIL, said: "We are delighted that our increased offer has been recommended unanimously by the board of Sears. We consider that this decision provides both clarity to employees and certainty of a full value to Sears shareholders."

The deal is likely to mean that Sears directors will receive large payouts from their options, which, in most cases, are triggered by a takeover. David Duff, finance director, could be in line for as much as £1.5 million, while Roger Groom, the property director,

could collect up to £1.18 million. Derek Lovelock, head of the clothing business, could get £697,000 from his options. Sears, which JIL will de-list from the stock market, owns the Freemans catalogue company, the Warehouse, Wallis, and Richards women's wear chains, the Adams children's wear chain, a property business and the Creation credit card business. Sears last week announced the sale of Creation to Banque Nationale de Paris and Cognoga for £141 million. JIL is believed to be consider-

ing continuing with the sale of Creation, and is understood to have held talks about the sale of Freemans with Otto Versand of Germany. N Brown, chaired by Sir David Alliance, is also extremely keen to get its hands on Freemans, which it made one attempt to buy from Sears.

Mr Green, who is chief executive of JIL, said yesterday that he had not pre-sold any part of the company: "I want to go and meet the management of each part of the company," he said, before making any decisions on what would be best for

them. He said that the price had been raised "to save all the uncertainty. We felt it was best to get an agreed deal."

JIL is being partly funded by Mr Green's wife Cristina, and by the Barclays, who own the Ritz hotel as well as The Scotsman, Scotland on Sunday and Sunday Business newspapers. The bulk of the financing comes from loans raised through BankBoston and the Bank of Scotland.

Mr Green's other businesses are Owen Owen, the department store company

based in the North West, and the Mark One chain of discount fashion stores. The terms represent a significant premium to the low of 146p at which Sears shares traded in October. However, the shares traded at 382p as recently as June 1998. In 1995 the buoyancy of the retail sector and optimism about the outlook for retailers lifted the shares close to 760p.

Rise and fall, page 26
Commentary, page 27

RSA ready with £3.5bn offer for rival GRE

By Jason Nisbet

ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE, the giant insurance group, is poised to bid about £3.5 billion to rival Guardian Royal Exchange after being told it has made the highest offer in the auction of the insurer.

The offer, priced at about 390p per GRE share, has topped rival bids from other interested parties such as Axa, the French group, Allianz of Germany and AIG, the US insurance giant. The highest offer was understood to have been no higher than 370p a share. GRE shares were unmoved at 354p yesterday.

GRE asked Morgan Stanley, the US investment bank, to carry out an auction of the company after receiving informal approaches from various rivals last year.

The group decided the GRE could not continue in its current form—being smaller and more diversified than most rivals. It said it would announce the result of the auction by the end of this month.

RSA—which was itself created by a merger between Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance in 1996—is to be given exclusive negotiating rights to conclude a deal, though it is not yet in a position to put an offer to shareholders.

Any deal would need to be financed by a rights issue by RSA of up to £2 billion. This right not be well received by the market, given that RSA shares have fallen from a high

of 808p last March to stand at 487p, down 11½p, yesterday. The bid could also face a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and there would be concerns about job losses, which could be as high as 5,000 as RSA integrated GRE's general insurance business.

The market is also concerned about the "problem" RSA had in merging the Royal and Sun Alliance operations. After the merger, the group had two chief executives, Roger Taylor and Roger Gumble. This structure did not work and both left, with Bob Mendelson being promoted from the US business to become sole chief executive of RSA.

The GRE board, led by new chairman, Sir Colin Chandler, may yet decide that none of the bids put forward give full value to the company. The alternative to selling the company in one go is for GRE to sell its businesses piecemeal.

A circular from HSBC Securities, the broker, published yesterday, suggests that GRE could be worth as much as 473p a share.

AXA has said it is interested in the general insurance business and Prudential is understood to be keen to buy other parts of GRE, including the burgeoning healthcare operation.

Neither GRE nor RSA would comment on what they called "market speculation" last night.



Nick Prettejohn played a key part in the reconstruction and renewal process that saved Lloyd's

Sandler hunts top City job after quitting Lloyd's

By Robert Cole, City Correspondent

RON SANDLER is quitting as chief executive of the Lloyd's insurance market. He is being replaced by Nick Prettejohn, a 38-year-old Lloyd's insider.

Mr Sandler has been in the job for four years and is credited with saving the insurance market from collapse. He has not got a job to go and refused to comment about specific future employment possibilities. However, he said: "I would like to return to running a business rather than running a market."

However, he has already been linked with the current vacancy for a chief executive at Barclays Bank. Similar vacancies exist at Cable & Wireless Communications and Rank. Mr Sandler plans to remain at Lloyd's until the summer. He will not receive compensation for loss of office.

During his tenure at Lloyd's Mr Sandler attracted sharp criticism from names, the traditional personal providers of capital backing insurance underwriting, who have been progressively displaced by companies, so-called corporate capital.

Christopher Stockwell, a spokesman for disaffected names, said: "A number of names may miss Mr Sandler's analytical skills but many will not be sorry to see such an ardent supporter of corporate capital move on."

But Michael Deeny, chairman of the Association of Lloyd's Names, the leading names' pressure group, said: "Ron worked hard... and played a vitally important role in saving Lloyd's." He added

that Mr Prettejohn was a "brilliant young man" who he was happy to welcome to the post.

Mr Prettejohn joined the executive team at Lloyd's in 1995 as head of strategy. He is described as playing a key role in the reconstruction and renewal process that saved Lloyd's from oblivion. He was also involved in the development of Equitas, the body that re-insured troublesome pre-1992 losses and was pivotal in the RAR project.

Mr Prettejohn is a graduate of Balliol College, Oxford. He has a first class degree in philosophy, politics and economics. He began his career as a management consultant with Bain & Co. was a director of Apax Partners, the venture capitalist, and also spent a year as director of corporate strategy at NRC, the transport company.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	6022.3	(-83.3)
Yield	2.72%	
FTSE All Share	2720.03	(-31.54)
Nikkei	14245.42	(+217.37)
New York		
Dow Jones	9227.42	(-6.48)
S&P Composite	1246.23	(-10.20)

US RATE

3-month interbank	4.75%	(1/4%)
Federal Funds	10.11%	(101%)
Long bond	5.14%	(5.17%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	5.75%	(5.1%)
Life long gft	220.08	(119.53)

STERLING

New York	1.8515*	(1.8458)
----------	---------	----------

London	1.8519	(1.8474)
--------	--------	----------

\$	1.4280	(1.4228)
----	--------	----------

SP	2.2882	(2.2868)
----	--------	----------

Yen	188.99	(188.98)
-----	--------	----------

£ index	99.6	(99.5)
---------	------	--------

¥ index	104.0	(104.3)
---------	-------	---------

Tokyo close Yen	113.07	
-----------------	--------	--

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Apr)	\$10.90	(\$10.85)
--------------------	---------	-----------

GOLD

London close	\$288.15	(\$286.15)
--------------	----------	------------

Exchange rates... Page 26

* denotes midday trading prices

Zeneca shares soar to record

Zeneca shares reached a new high as the company took a big step towards completing its proposed merger with Astra of Sweden. AstraZeneca, as the enlarged pharmaceutical group will be known, will be Britain's fifth-largest company. Page 26

Beer bid lifted

Marston Thompson & Evershed rejected an increased £290 million offer from Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, setting the scene for what is expected to be a tight battle. Page 27; Tempus, page 28

On-Line pair sell £1m shares

By Fraser Nelson

ON-LINE, the Internet games producer whose shares had soared 2,084 per cent this month alone, crashed back to earth yesterday—but only after its directors sold £966,000 of shares.

Michael Hodges and Clement Chambers, co-founders of the company, said they were "forced" to sell their shares at between 176p and 250p apiece to satisfy market demand.

The shares, which started the month at 124p, fell 144p to 129p yesterday and are expected to drop further today. Mr Hodges raised £240,000 in cash from disposing of 100,000 shares. Three weeks ago, the same stake would have raised £12,500.

Mr Hodges said Mr Chambers, who has sold a total of £726,000 in shares, has agreed to exercise newly-granted share options—effectively hanging on to £246,000 in shares after passing the mon-

ey to the company. Mr Hodges is keeping the money he raised from the sale.

Analysts and dealers have been baffled by the surge in On-Line shares. They are amazed that the company did not suggest creating new shares for a public offering at its Wednesday meeting, rather than allowing the directors to sell.

One said: "The two of them have just earned enough to retire on, and they are saying 'this hurts us more than it hurts you'. The whole thing is bizarre."

Their disposals were carried out on Wednesday, when On-Line shares hit their high of 279p.

Mr Hodges and Mr Chambers own 65 per cent of the company's shares between them. It is now capitalised at £4.2 million.

Bank loans at record level

By Janet Busel, Economics Editor

BANK lending to house buyers set a record in December, usually a slow month, suggesting that cuts in interest rates have breathed new life into the housing market.

The British Bankers' Association said the figures, showing a record £12.1 billion increase in net mortgage lending, were "remarkable". Separate figures from the Building Societies Association also tended to point to a revival in the housing market with mortgage approvals up in December.

Bank lending increased overall by £5.5 billion, far above the recent monthly average of £2.95 billion, the BBA said. The strength was not just in mortgage lending, with demand for credit from industry and commerce, particularly among property and construction companies, rising.

Some of the growth in mortgage lending resulted from re-financing, according to the

BBA, but nevertheless December's rise was well above the recent monthly average of £1 billion, suggesting an element of genuine new demand.

Yesterday's figures from building societies were not as buoyant overall as those from banks, suggesting that banks may be gaining market share. The BSA said that gross mortgage advances totalled £1.49 billion in December compared with £1.62 billion in November while net advances fell to £120 million from £344 million.

Adrian Coles, BSA director-general, said that, given the scope for further interest rate cuts, borrowers might find the housing market particularly affordable this year.

Separate figures from the Bank of England showed that M4 broad money supply rose 0.8 per cent in December. The annual rate of growth fell to 8 per cent from 8.3 per cent, the lowest level since June 1995.

Sixth chief goes at Laura Ashley

By Sarah Cunningham

LAURA ASHLEY, the troubled retail company, lost its sixth chief executive since 1990 yesterday, but gained the Rev Pat Robertson, the well-known television evangelist and former US presidential hopeful, as a non-executive director.

Mr Robertson, who has extensive business interests, is believed to have been asked to join the board by John Thornton, the Laura Ashley chairman, and a senior banker at Goldman Sachs. Mr Robertson is also believed to know Kay Peng Khoo, the chairman and chief executive of Malaysian United Industries (MUI), which owns 40 per cent of Laura Ashley. Dr Khoo is also believed to be a non-executive director.

Mr Robertson holds two million shares—equivalent to about 0.5 per cent—in the firm of 400,000 American Depository Receipts. Victoria Egan, who was chief executive for just five

months, is leaving for personal reasons having found it difficult to settle in London.

Mrs Egan, who previously worked for MUI, took over from David Hoare, the company director who was asked to stabilise the company after the departure of Ann Iverson, the high-profile American who launched an ill-advised expansion into the US.

Mrs Egan will be replaced by Kwan Cheong Ng, a Laura Ashley non-executive director who runs the retailing arm of MUI. The company revealed some disastrous trading figures yesterday. In the 24 weeks to January 16, like-for-like sales were down 13 per cent. Total sales were down 16 per cent.

Mrs Iverson's US expansion is being slowly unravelled. By the end of this month it will have closed or relocated 19 of the 32 larger stores. Laura Ashley shares slipped 1p to 12p, compared with 21p in 1997.

the
January
mail-order
sale

save up to
40%
on fine handmade
two-fold cotton
shirts usually £36
now from just
£21.60

A wide range of styles
Lock-stitched buttons
A dozen size options
Generous cut and tails
Four-piece split yokes
Double or single cuffs
Distinctive cufflinks
Pure Italian silk ties

goodwill
to all men

JOSEPH TURNER

FREE mail-order brochure
01845 575100 fax 01845 575111
e-mail sales@josephturner.co.uk

Rise and fall of the Sears that Clore built

IT IS EASY to forget just how large Sears once was. Only a decade ago it was still Britain's leading retailer. Its 4,000 stores dominated many high streets and gave it even more outlets than the Post Office.

By comparison, the Sears that Philip Green and the Barclay brothers are buying is a sadly shrunken thing of just a few clothing chains and the Freemans catalogue business.

In its heyday, the British Shoe Corporation, a now defunct Sears subsidiary, sold as many as one in four pairs of shoes in the UK. It traded as Freeman Hardy Willis, Trueform, Lilley & Skinner, Manfield, Roland Carlier, Dokis, Bertie, Curtess and Shoe City.

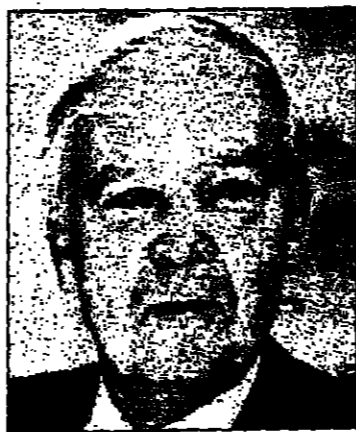
Sears's menswear chains included Fosters, Hornes, and Your Price. Its women's clothes chains included Miss Selfridge, Wallis and Warehouse, all of which remain in the group. The company also owned Olympus Sport, and the jewellers Garrard and Mappin & Webb. Other names it once owned include Lewis's



Clore ran Sears in its heyday



Strong: damaged by Facia deal



Reid: chairman during decline

department stores, sold in 1988, and William Hill, the bookmaker, sold for £31 million in December of that year.

The decline of Sears arguably began many years before the current management joined the group. The true glory days were with Sir Charles Clore, the property magnate who

bought the J Sears (True Form Boot) company in 1954 and ran it, aided by his trusted lieutenant, Leonard Sainer, until his death 20 years later.

Sir Charles's legacy lived on in the company until four years ago through Geoffrey Maitland Smith. He was chairman for nine years until handing over to Sir Bob Reid in 1993,

and had been a board member for 25 years, since Sir Charles's time.

With the group seen to be floundering, Michael Pickard began to make some changes when he was brought in as chief executive in the late Eighties. It was he who sold Mappin & Webb and William Hill, and he also introduced Olympus Sport and Ad-

ams, the childrenswear chain, which is still part of the group.

When he was succeeded by Liam Strong in 1992, the appointment was well received, and the shares rose. The honeymoon did not last long. The most damaging incident for Mr Strong, who finally left the group two years ago, came when Facia, the retail business built by Stephen Hinchliffe, collapsed and the leases on 380 shoe shops that Mr Strong had sold to Facia reverted to Sears. Other sales of businesses — notably to Philip Green — were viewed as badly timed.

Sir Bob's chairmanship of Sears saw it go into a sorry decline. An attempt to sell Freemans failed and a proposed demerger last year was pulled because it, too, would have failed. Selfridges, which was de-merged, has underperformed the market. Trading by what is left of the group has limped along. For once, calling shareholders — now able to exit Sears at 35p a share — "long-suffering" is not an overstatement.

SARAH CUNNINGHAM

Lookers hit by falling car prices

LOOKERS, the motor retail group based in Manchester, blamed a slide in used car prices for reduced full-year profits, adding that it expects car prices to continue slipping this year. However, Craig McKinney, chairman, added that January orders are at a similar level to last year and he expects a boost from the introduction of twice-yearly registrations which began in March. "This year is likely to be similar to 1998. There will be continuing pressure on prices of new products and that will come through to the used car market," he said.

In the year to September 30, the group reported pre-tax profits down 4 per cent at £8.6 million (£9.0 million) on turnover on continuing operations of £843.3 million. The figures were hit in part by a 40 per cent drop in business at its agricultural machinery division, which saw losses of £250,000. New car sales increased by 7.5 per cent due mainly to a large increase in sales in the less profitable fleet sector. Used car sales increased 10 per cent on the previous year. The final dividend is unchanged at 5.65p, maintaining the total at 8.25p. Earnings were unchanged at 15.6p a share.

Halifax joint venture

HALIFAX has announced a 50/50 joint venture with Cetelem, a Paris-based specialist in the European consumer credit market. The new company, to be called Halifax Cetelem Finance, will begin trading in the third quarter of 1999 and will offer credit for the purchase of durable goods at the point of sale. It is the latest in a string of Halifax joint ventures aimed at exploiting the bank's strong brand. Cetelem is a wholly owned subsidiary of Paribas. It specialises in consumer finance, managing accounts in France, Italy, Spain, Portugal and the Benelux countries. In 1997 its total funds under management were about £8.2 billion.

Tadpole sinks lower

TADPOLE TECHNOLOGY, the specialist computer manufacturer, yesterday disappointed the City by reporting a rise in pre-tax losses from £3.5 million to £3.7 million for the year ended September 30. Sales fell 30 per cent to £9.4 million, while losses per share fell from 10.3p to 6.6p. The company's shares, which traded at 307p in 1995, fell 0.75p to 11.5p yesterday. Tadpole said it was now focused on two kinds of computers: those which used the Unix computer language, and those which used the JAVA language. The company concluded that 1998 had been "a significant year in realising strategic goals".

ITG wins licence

SHARES in Internet Technology Group (ITG), the Internet service provider, rose by 22 per cent, to 172½p, after the company was awarded a telecoms licence by the Department of Trade and Industry. The licence will allow ITG to operate its own international telecoms network, and will therefore improve the company's margins on corporate Internet services. The company already has a high-capacity transatlantic link between London and New York, operated under a temporary licence.

Enterprise cheer

SHARES in Enterprise Inns, the tenanted pub operator, rose 16½p to 379p after an upbeat trading statement. At its annual meeting, Hubert Reid, chairman, told shareholders that Christmas and new year trading had hit budget and the integration of Mayfair Taverns, acquired in October, had been completed "ahead of our expected timetable". He added: "Operating profit for the first quarter was ahead of expectations and earnings are anticipated to benefit further from the increasingly benign interest rate movement."

Takeover at Division

DIVISION GROUP, the loss-making supplier of computer-aided design and manufacturing technology, has succumbed to a £28 million takeover by America's Parametric Technology, a software company which is listed on Nasdaq. The offer is worth 40p a share, compared with Wednesday's close of 35½p and a 12-month high of 63½p. Yesterday Division reported increased pre-tax losses of £3.8 million for the year to the end of October, compared with a £1.78 million loss in the previous year. There is again no dividend.

Daejan holds dividend

DAEJAN HOLDINGS, the property group, is maintaining the interim dividend at 19p after reporting pre-tax profits little changed at £12.6 million for the six months to the end of September, against £12.9 million previously. Earnings were 54.2p a share, down from 55.6p. The company said the results reflect a change of policy in offering residential units for letting rather than for sale. Daejan shares, which hit a 12-month high of £17.10 in July, were unchanged at £10.90 yesterday.

Wiggins flies in US

WIGGINS GROUP, the property company that owns Kent International Airport, has agreed to acquire a 50-year lease on Smyrna Airport in Nashville, Tennessee, for an undisclosed sum. The airport handles 80,000 take-offs and landings each year, mainly corporate jets, jet maintenance and freight shipments. Wiggins also reported interim pre-tax profits of £634,000, down from £1.12 million previously when results benefited from property disposals. Earnings were 0.08p a share (0.16p). The dividend is again passed.

BT switches to Ericsson

BT has placed an order worth up to £270 million with Ericsson for high performance switches to expand its network capacity to meet the anticipated growth in Internet, high-speed data and video services. The switches will be deployed over the next four years, with the first one scheduled to go live in June. The investment is in addition to the £800 million expenditure BT announced last May to extend significantly its core optical fibre transmission network. BT spends about £2 billion a year on network improvements and overall expansion.

Zeneca's shares soar on merger progress

By PAUL DURMAN

SHARES of Zeneca reached a new high of £29.33 during trading yesterday, as the former drugs arm of ICI took a big step towards completing its proposed merger with Astra of Sweden.

AstraZeneca — as the enlarged pharmaceutical group will be known — is set to become Britain's fifth-largest company. Merger documents were issued to shareholders yesterday. The shares ended the day up 25p at £28.62, compared with a price of £18.60 in October.

Zeneca, said that the deal with Astra would create "a winning combination" and the third-largest pharmaceutical company in the world. The proposed company, which will report its results in dollars, has a stock market value of about £48 billion.

Sir David Barnes, Zeneca's chief executive, dismissed the chances of the deal being blown off course by a hostile offer for either partner. He said: "If someone is going to intervene, I would be the last to know. But do I regard it as a real possibility? No, I don't."

Yesterday's closing share price values Sir David's stake at almost £6 million.

even before his share options are included.

Zeneca also said its trading performance for 1998 was in line with market expectations. US pharmaceutical sales were 21 per cent ahead, with Zestril becoming the most prescribed hypertension drug in its class. Sales of cancer drugs were also strong.

The agrochemicals division finished the year strongly. The speciality chemicals business, which is up for sale, recorded lower sales than in 1997. Detailed third-quarter results, published for the first time, showed the strength of sterling reduced Zeneca's underlying pre-tax profits by 4 per cent to £845 million after nine months of 1998. At constant currencies, profits would have been up 9 per cent.

Sir David, who is to be deputy chairman of AstraZeneca, said the full-year cost of the strong pound is likely to be about £130 million. He said that profits would have been about £300 million higher but for the rise in the pound over the past two years. Tom McKillop is to be the company's chief executive.

Zeneca's shareholders will be asked to approve the deal with Astra on February 18.



Tom McKillop, chief executive designate of AstraZeneca, reported a 21 per cent rise in Zeneca's pharmaceutical sales in the US

Novartis prepared for a major deal

NOVARTIS, the Swiss healthcare group, yesterday expressed its willingness to make a big strategic deal as it reported 1998 sales that disappointed analysts' expectations (Paul Durman writes).

Raymond Bren, chief financial officer, said: "You will always have a stream of smaller transactions. Once in a while you have larger transactions. That is part of growing your business and defending your leading positions."

Novartis, formed from the merger three years ago of

Ciba and Sandoz, has been suggested as a rival partner for Zeneca, which is planning a £48 billion merger with Astra of Sweden.

Novartis' sales grew by only 2 per cent to SwFr31.7 billion (£13.9 billion) although this represented a 5 per cent improvement in Swiss francs. Sales fell by 3 per cent in the final quarter.

Analysts had forecast an annual sales increase of up to 5 per cent.

The group's shares fell 6 per cent in early trade.

Monsanto suffers charges of \$800m

MONSANTO, the controversial US agribusiness that is a leading producer of genetically engineered plants, has disclosed the price of its phenomenal year of expansion, reporting charges of more than \$800 million (£485 million) for restructuring and write-offs (Gael Morfitt writes).

The company said that charges of \$625 million in the fourth quarter would cover the cost of 1,700 job losses and the disposal of assets. These are expected to save \$160 million a year for the company.

Monsanto is also taking a \$223 million hit for research and development write-offs relating to last year's multi-billion dollar acquisition spree, which included the takeover of Cargill's international seed business. The write-offs left Monsanto with a post-tax loss of \$603 million, compared with last year's \$5 million profit.

Monsanto scored a political victory in Britain yesterday when a House of Lords committee endorsed the use of genetically modified crops.

Nissan to go ahead with £215m Sunderland plan

By ADAM JONES

NISSAN, the debt-ridden Japanese car manufacturer, warned yesterday that 1998 profits from its UK manufacturing operation will be less than half the £77 million in 1997 because of the strength of sterling.

Amid speculation that Ford might bid for its ailing rival, Nissan — which has debts of about £12.5 billion — held talks with workers at its factory in Sunderland to reassure them that an investment programme is going ahead.

Nissan will take on 800 staff at Sunderland this year to prepare for the launch of the new Almera model, which will be built alongside the Primera and the Micra, its best seller in Europe.

The Sunderland factory is widely seen as being the most productive outside Japan, even though it is not heavily automated. It already employs about 4,300 workers.

Recruitment for the new model, which required a £215 million investment, will take place in the summer. All staff at the plant will be retained.

Despite the profits fall, Nissan sold 106,478 cars here in 1998, five per cent more than in 1997.

The Sunderland plant also exports heavily to the Continent. It will have capacity to build 350,000 cars a year after the new model is introduced.



IN BUSINESS WITH TOMORROW

Who is this woman and why does she go to nightclubs carrying a video camera?

Mirror rejects £900m RIM bid

By RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

THE board of The Mirror Group yesterday rejected as inadequate the £900 million bid from Regional Independent Media, publisher of the Yorkshire Post, but left the door open for further negotiations.

RIM has also agreed to assume £500 million debts, lifting the total value of its offer to £1.4 billion. RIM, which is run by Chris Oakley, former chief executive of Midland Independent Newspapers, now part of the Mirror, will be given further information on which to base a formal offer.

Yesterday the Mirror board received two new independent valuations of the group. Both, it is believed, place a higher value on the Mirror Group than the RIM offer, but the difference is not thought to be great enough to derail a possible deal.

RIM is backed by Cando-

ver, the venture capital group, and by the Soros Fund, the investment vehicle of George Soros, and Deutsche Morgan Grenfell.

Mirror Group owns three national newspapers as well as the Daily Record in Scotland, The Newsletter in Belfast and Midland Independent Newspapers.

Trinity, the largest regional newspaper group, which broke off talks with Mirror earlier this month, was planning a all-share offer.

A share deal is preferred by Phillips & Drew, the largest Mirror shareholder with more than 22 per cent. A number of other shareholders would probably be happy with RIM's cash if agreement can be reached on the valuation of the company.

Mirror shares fell 3p to 198½p yesterday.

Divine guidance for Laura Ashley?

FROM OLIVER ALGUST IN NEW YORK

THE REV PAT ROBERTSON, the new Laura Ashley director appointed yesterday, is sure to add a splash of colour to the retailer's rather gloomy balance sheet. But shareholders and shoppers may well ask what he can do to improve finances — short of summoning divine help.

The company described Mr Robertson as "a noted media pioneer, educator, philanthropist and religious broadcaster". This only hints at the unique role he plays in American culture and politics.

After his unsuccessful bid to be elected as the Republican Party's presidential candidate in 1988, he carved out a niche as political commentator extraordinaire. From his weekly television pulpit on the 700 Club programme, he preaches Christian

fundamentalism and chastises President Clinton. For two decades, Mr Robertson has been one of the strongest voices of ultra conservatism in America, a position he has expanded and fortified as chairman of the Christian Coalition, as much a business as it is a political lobby group.

Mr Robertson has wide-ranging business interests, controlled and sometimes headed by family members. The Robertsons own a refinery in California and companies in Africa and China, in addition to two million shares of a certain small English clothes retailer.

Until last year, Mr Robertson also controlled International Family Entertainment, a cable television company he founded. The business was sold to The News Corporation, parent company of The Times, for \$1.7 billion (£1 billion).

His personal wealth has allowed Mr

Robertson to remain a fixture in US politics far beyond the normal shelf-life of an unelected campaigner.

His particular talent is to seize a popular issue and become identified with the cause. He was one of the most fervent anti-abortion activists. This week, he adopted the millennium bug for his purposes.

But his biggest fight recently has been over the sins of the President. Mr Robertson was one of the first mainstream commentators calling for impeachment to combat "moral degeneracy".

Last year the Christian Broadcasting Network agreed to make a "substantial payment" to the Internal Revenue Service. The taxman had conducted an investigation into improper political activities during Mr Robertson's presidential bid.

All valuable business experience, no doubt.



Robertson splash of colour

LOOKING FOR A SCHOOL ON THE INTERNET

with **School Search**

Up-to-date details of independent schools in the UK and overseas.

Preparatory, Senior, VIII Form, Professional Schools and Colleges. Searching on a computer and single web site. Also search for schools in the UK and overseas.

http://www.schoolsearch.co.uk

School Search is a service of The Education Ltd.

JOHN CATT

When fast talking had to stop



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

So Sears has gone. Can Laura Ashley be far behind? These two companies have far more in common than the desperate "Sale" signs currently splashed across their shop windows. Both are sorry tales of inept management and ineffective shareholders. The current retail downturn may have added to their problems but in both cases, it is the company and not the consumer that is culpable for shredding shareholder value.

Between them, they have provided lavish rewards to some of the most incompetent chief executives ever to have been given desk space. Just imagine how much faster either company might have been brought to its knees had it been able to employ both Liam Strong and Anne Iversen simultaneously. What a wonderful double act that would have been: Mr Strong deploying rafts of expensive consultants to devise duff — but expensive — strategies and Ms Iversen rolling them out into huge new, unwanted, stores, pausing only to don her leathers and pose for Vogue.

The boards of both companies were bamboozled by their fast-talking chief executives, although Laura Ashley was at least quick to spot the flaws in Ms Iversen's tactics than Sears was in rumbling Liam Strong.

Sir Bob Reid supported Strong when his failings as a leader and a manager were painfully clear to the outside world. But Sir Bob

tends to take a blinkered view of life. His non-executives appear to be completely blindfolded for they sat and watched as the business that Sir Charles Clow had built up was gradually shrunk to its current pitiful state. Lord Tebbit may have been a feisty politician but he sat on the Sears board for 12 years without, apparently, raising a voice of dissent.

Despite Sir Bob Reid's recent insistence that Sears shares were worth between £5 and £6, yesterday he recommended an offer of 35p as "a fair deal for shareholders". It certainly represents the fairest treatment they have had for some time. Given Philip Green's reputation as one of the sharpest operators, it is worth noting that, not so long ago, the shares languished below 150p. If he is now prepared to pay so much more, he clearly has every confidence that he can extract the sort of valuation that Sir Bob talked about.

Watching Mr Green and his backers make his profits will inevitably be palling for Sears shareholders but those who had held the stock for years have only themselves to blame. Even after the fiasco of the Fasia deal, they allowed Sir Bob to remain at the

helm of the incredibly shrinking Sears ship.

If Sir Bernard Ashley had been removed from the scene sooner, Laura Ashley might not have been such a miserable tale. But he at least had the excuse of a huge shareholding to justify his interfering. His views on what has happened since are probably unprintable. Ditto the Malaysian investors who were persuaded to bail it out last time.

Heavy weather for insurance bidders

Guardian Royal Exchange's future should have been settled by now, eight weeks after the smallest of the independent composite insurers acknowledged that it was in-play. But the haggling still goes on.

Three years ago, when Royal and Sun Alliance were pondering their merger, much of the in-

dustry was enjoying a healthy recovery in profit. Even a year ago, when Commercial Union and General Accident popped the question to each other, things were not too bad.

Margins on general insurance have now relapsed, along with most of the share price, making it much harder to offer investors an attractive package. While other sectors boom, insurers never bounced back from the late summer post-Russia mini-crash. Even GRE, buoyed largely by bid hopes, trades a quarter below its 1998 high of 475p a share.

Sun Life and Provincial, backed by its ambitious French parent AXA, has seen its share price keep up but the early favourite seems disinclined to play a premium price for GRE and has been ruled out, along with other try-on bidders. That has left the field for Royal & Sun Alliance, which ought to be prepared to pay more.

With a market value only half

that of Allied Zurich, for example, RSA desperately needs to bulk itself up to have any chance of surviving as one of the big global insurance players. And there is a lot of overlap to maximise cost cutting. But RSA cannot afford a hostile bid for GRE.

After the high hopes of 1996, RSA rapidly lost friends by failing to sort out in advance the management of the merged group, resulting in the chiefs of both previous companies being stripped of power a year ago. Bob Mendelson, who was brought over from the US operation to speed up the £175 million a year of planned costs cuts, has yet to see the fruits of his labours.

At this tricky point, a strikingly timed circular from HSBC has bolstered lingering resistance in the GRE camp. HSBC urges institutional shareholders not to allow themselves to be short-changed by a cheap bid or carve-up. It is aiming for 430p a share, valuing GRE at £3.8 billion, rather

than the £3 billion some rejected suitors had in mind.

At that price, a bidder would have to add value to GRE's jewels, such as the PPP sickness insurer, rather than just wield the axe. Anyone who tries will have to do a lot of convincing lobbying in hostile City parlours.

The insurance market's saviour

Ron Sandler deserves a decent send-off when he departs from Lloyd's this summer. He may only have served four years but they were crucial years for the survival of the insurance market. Mr Sandler and Sir David Rowland rarely acknowledged just how close to extinction Lloyd's was, but they laboured mightily to achieve the settlements with the names and the new investment that would enable the market to survive.

South African Sandler might not have attracted the same headlines as his predecessor, the eccentric Peter Middleton, but he did get the job done. Mr Middleton, famous as the motor-bike riding former monk, made a hasty escape to Salomon Brothers but

did not appear to settle there any more than he did at Lloyd's.

Mr Sandler's experience in sorting out Lloyd's might have made him the perfect catch for Barclays, still in search of a chief executive. He has probably been asked. But it seems that, like his predecessor, he is attracted to the world of investment banking, and is unlikely to have any trouble in landing the sort of globe-trotting role that will bring him a decent salary.

It will be intriguing to see whether he will want to venture some of his money on becoming a Lloyd's name. Sandler had little sympathy for those names who enjoyed the profits while they flowed but refused to pay up when fortune turned nasty. Lloyd's is now chasing them and, like Sandler, means business.

On-Line honesty

THE directors of On-Line clearly enjoy a joke. The chuckling was almost audible yesterday as they owned up to the fact that they are not really a whizzy, Internet-oriented business after all. Having sold some of their hugely over-rated shares, they could afford a spot of honesty. But the spirit of openness is unlikely to be contagious. Investors need to tread warily as they try and pick Internet winners. Arcadia's £1 million of Internet sales amount to a promising start but not a whole new personality.

Mobil's spending cut by \$600m

Weak oil prices have forced Mobil to cut current-year spending plans by \$600 million (£364 million), and the company has given warning that oil production will fall in 1999.

The US oil company, which has agreed an \$80 billion merger with the rival Exxon, has pruned its project portfolio and given warning that its 1999 budget may be cut further if oil prices fail to improve.

Mobil said its 1999 capital budget would be \$4.8 billion, down 11 per cent from last year. Drilling will continue in the new West of Shetland area. Mobil's warning coincides with better than expected earnings from Exxon. It suffered a 40 per cent fall in fourth-quarter net profits, to \$1.5 billion, but earnings on a comparable basis were only 30 per cent down, less than the 50 per cent fall analysts forecast.

VAT ruling

Car leasing and trading companies had a setback in the European Court yesterday when the Advocate General backed UK Customs and Excise's rights to limit recovery of VAT on cars. Up to £15 billion could be at stake, including back-dated claims by the companies. The court's final judgment, which usually follows the Advocate General's opinion, will be made later this year.

Cisco invests

Cisco Systems, the US technology giant, is making a £10 million investment in Scotland by unveiling a European research and development centre in Edinburgh, and starting its first European manufacturing, in Livingston. The investment could create up to 160 jobs. The research centre is to develop software technology for world markets.

Krug for LVMH

LVMH, the French luxury goods group, has bought the Krug champagne business from the Rémy Cointreau drinks company for £1 billion (£107 million). LVMH products include Dom Perignon champagne and Louis Vuitton leather goods.

Bank's £19m buy

Brown Shipley, the merchant bank, is to buy Henry Cooke, the Oxf-traded investment manager, for £19.6 million. More than half of Cooke's shareholders have already accepted the deal.

Bitter end near as Marston's rejects new Wolves' offer

By DOMINIC WALSH

MARSTON Thompson & Evershed yesterday rejected an increased offer from Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, setting the scene for what is expected to be a tight finale to this increasingly bitter battle.

Wolves raised its offer from 282p a share to 306.1p — valuing its prey at around £290 million — and raised the amount of cash it is offering to 230p compared to 182p under its original offer in November. The balance will be paid in shares.

However, Nick Letcher, Marston's chief executive, said the bid was "predicated on a flawed strategy that has consistently destroyed value and should be rejected". He pointed out that Wolves' revised estimate of cost savings — up from £12 million to £17 million — was still well short of the £24 million of synergy benefits promised by Marston in its own £330 million counterbid for Wolves.

Most analysts expect the new offer from Wolves to be accepted, although some expressed disappointment at the level of the increase. One said: "I was hoping for around 315p a share, so this is far from a knockout bid. It looks as though it's going to be close, although my view is that Wolves should get it — just."

David Thompson, managing director of Wolves, said the revised offer was fair in that it represented a premium of 77 per cent over the Marston's share price prior to market speculation of a deal, and 54



David Thompson, left, managing director of Wolverhampton & Dudley, with financial director Ralph Findlay

per cent higher than the day before it finally launched its bid two months ago.

Mr Thompson dismissed Marston's so-called Pac-Man counterbid as "expensive" and "high-risk", adding: "It purports to address industry consolidation, but is in fact disintegration, downsizing and dilution."

He also cast doubt on its ability to deliver £24 million of cost savings without damaging the future prospects of the business.

He also launched a fierce attack on Mr Letcher for failing to follow a consistent strategy. He claimed that while the

Marston's counterbid envisaged the retention of its Burton brewery, where it makes Pedigree bitter, this was "quite at odds with their recent offer to sell it to us". He said he had been offered the brewery twice over the past 12 months.

Marston's shareholders have until February 4 to decide whether to accept the raised offer. However, analysts expect Mr Letcher to respond by raising his own counterbid, or, at the very least, to increase the cash element of the offer.

Tempus, page 28

Hamleys adds to retailer gloom with drop in sales

By SAEED SHAH

DIFFICULT trading conditions in an increasingly competitive market made for a disappointing Christmas and new year period for Hamleys, Blacks Leisure and William Baird.

The toy retailer yesterday reported group sales 2.4 per cent down for the 24 weeks to January 16, sending the shares 11p lower to 132p.

Hamleys said, however, that the decline in sales growth has been partially offset by the continued strengthening of margins. It said the flagship Regent Street store and Satellite operations showed "real strength" and sales were up 3.7 per cent on last year.

In the two weeks before Christmas, sales at the Regent Street store increased 12 per cent over the previous year.

The House of Toys concessions did not perform well, with sales down 14 per cent in the 24-week period.

William Baird, the clothing group, said sales for 1998 are expected to be 4 per cent lower than 1997, after flat sales in the first half. Profits for 1998 are expected to be slightly ahead at Baird's Brand business but behind in the division supplying Marks & Spencer.

The company said pre-tax profits for the year to December 31, 1998, are expected to be not less than £30 million. Last time, Baird made pre-tax profit of £31.1 million on turnover of £550.9 million.

Blacks Leisure Group, the

retailer and distributor of sports clothing and equipment, reported that for the 20 weeks to January 16, 1999, like-for-like sales were down by 1 per cent overall. First Sport was down by 6 per cent. Blacks Outdoor ahead by 5 per cent and Active Venture was 23 per cent up.

In absolute terms, sales were 26 per cent up for the 20-week period. The company said its distribution businesses, Fila UK and O'Neill, are trading well ahead of the previous year.

Simon Bentley, chairman and chief executive, said he expected pre-tax profit for the year ending February 28, 1999, to be ahead of the £13.6 million achieved last time.

Shortage of phones alarming for JWE

By CHRIS AYRES

A SHORTAGE of pre-pay mobile phones caused by Christmas sales JWE Telecom, the Yorkshire mobile phone retailer and distributor, to issue a profit warning yesterday.

The shares fell 23 per cent to 163p after it said it had sold just 16,000 handsets during December, 4,000 short of its target.

John Weatherill, JWE's chairman, said: "Reduced margins on pre-pay phones and the inability of supply to meet demand will result in profits growth being below what we had hoped to achieve."

"However, trading has been very strong and we are well positioned to take advantage of the growth predicted in the sector in the current year and beyond."

JWE has 50 retail outlets following its acquisition of Midland Phones.

For the six months to October 2, pre-tax profits grew by 5 per cent to £414,000, while sales rose 36 per cent to £12 million.

Earnings per share were 1.53p, down nearly 7 per cent from 1.64p. There is an interim dividend of 0.65p, the first since the company's float early last year.

Tempus, page 28

Arcadia rebounds on news of 300 job cuts

ARCADIA, the clothing retail group, is cutting its head office staff by 300. The cuts at its West End headquarters came through 170 redundancies, with the rest resulting from a hiring freeze (Sarah Cunningham writes).

John Hoerner, chief executive, said the jobs being axed are "members of the management committee, all the way down". They will cost the company £3.5 million but should save it £8 million a year.

Mr Hoerner said that he had had it in mind to slim the organi-

sation at some point, after the demerger from Debenhams last year. He had accelerated the operation in an effort to bring down costs. Arcadia's shares rebounded from their lows yesterday, rising 30p to 167p.

Its shares plunged in December after a profits warning and as analysts became worried that the group's high fixed costs made it particularly vulnerable to a downturn in sales.

The group, which is behind the Dorothy Perkins, Top Shop, Top Man, Evans, Principles, Racing Green and Hawkhead brands, said yesterday that sales per square foot were down 1.9 per cent in the 20 weeks to January 16. Total sales, including new space, were up 0.3 per cent. Home shopping and Internet sales have fared better.

Worldwide sales of life and pension policies rose 21 per cent to £494 million. UK sales in-

L&G among the top ten fund managers

By RICHARD MILES AND CAROLINE MERRELL

LEGAL & GENERAL has galloped into the top ten institutional fund managers by attracting more than £11 billion of new business to its index-tracking funds in 1998.

The composite insurer said yesterday that funds under management had grown to £77 billion (£57 billion) as trustees switched to "more consistent and cheaper products".

Mandates of £250 million or more accounted for a third of the new business, largely at the expense of Garmore or Phillips & Drew. The growth helped Legal & General's total group assets to swell to £79 billion from £62 billion.

Worldwide sales of life and pension policies rose 21 per cent to £494 million. UK sales in-

creased 16 per cent to £341 million. Single-premium business showed the most improvement, up 23 per cent in UK life and pensions to £1.4 billion, continuing a decade-long trend away from regular premium payments. Single premium payments jumped 31 per cent to £755 million.

But David Prosser, group chief executive, sounded a note of caution: "We wouldn't be immune from any fall in consumer confidence. But the fourth quarter held up pretty well. We have not seen any significant falling away in business."

New business at Zurich Financial Services rose 18 per cent last year, boosted by sales through independent financial advisers. ZFS, comprising Allied Dunbar,

Eagle Star, Zurich and Threadneedle, the fund manager, is hoping this year to continue to increase its sales through IFAs.

Brian Thomas, Zurich Financial Services finance director, said: "We are on record as saying that we are looking for an acquisition in this sector."

New premiums at the Allied Dunbar salesforce grew by 5 per cent to £240 million, while net new business through the IFA channel grew by 42 per cent to £155 million.

Threadneedle, which provides the fund management for the group's products and offers its services to third parties, attracted £439 million of UK single premium investment funds.

Tempus, page 28

Bear necessity for ELC recovery

By MANUS COSTELLO

BARNEY the talking teddy bear came to the rescue of the Early Learning Centre over Christmas, it emerged yesterday. John Menzies, the distribution company that owns ELC, said sales of the interactive bear, which can learn and repeat phrases, surpassed expectations, leaving ELC close to breaking even for the full year after successive years of losses.

ELC sold 17,000 bears over Christmas, at £100 each, contributing £1.7 million to sales which were up 15 per cent like-for-

like in the four weeks before Christmas. Last year ELC posted a £6.7 million loss.

However, Menzies, which sold its newsgents to WH Smith last year, still plans to sell ELC in the near future to focus on its core business, distribution, and to continue the move into airport support services.

Menzies' 31 rose to £1.2 million in October 31 rose to £1.2 million (£200,000) on a turnover of continuing operations at £502.1 million (£582.4 million). Earnings per share were 2.3p (loss of 1.2p) and the interim dividend remains at 4.8p a share.

The results were hit by a poor perfor-

mance from THE Home Entertainment, the music, video and book distributor. The group has set aside an exceptional charge of £15 million in the second half to reorganise the subsidiary.

David Mackay, John Menzies chief executive, called the situation at THE "unacceptable". He said: "We got it badly wrong in the last year and the buck stops with me." He said group second-half profits were likely to be "much closer to last year's performance than they were in the first half".

Tempus, page 28

Surf and save.
Dell sale now on.

For great sale offers, log on now.
Design, build and order your PC online.

DELL

24 HOUR ONLINE STORE

www.dell.com/uk/sale

Dell and the Dell logo are registered trademarks of Dell Computer Corporation

STOCK MARKET

FRASER NELSON

FTSE falls as Net craze shows sign of demise

THE Internet gold rush showed its first sign of collapse yesterday as fears that the Wall Street craze for Net stocks is set to suffer an early death.

Dealers who had profited from selling to "90-ers" — private investors who appeared after the new year in search of Internet companies, said that sellers were emerging for the first time.

This combined with fresh fears about a Latin American economic crisis to send the FTSE 100 index down 83.3 points to 6,022.3 — with strategists expecting another dip below the 6,000 level today.

Jimenez was traced back to Barton Biggs, the influential chairman of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter Investments. He told a Tokyo conference that Argentina could be next for a crash, pulling Wall Street and London down after it.

This was credited with a 37p fall in Unilever, down to 612p and Reckitt & Coleman, 25p cheaper at 175p. He also said that investors with little knowledge of finance were creating the Internet "bubble" which would soon burst.

His words were eagerly followed by London dealers waiting for the first signs that the Internet craze will implode.

Suddenly, having an Internet-sounding name was no longer enough. The dramatic fall of On-Line, off 53 per cent at 129p, was followed by Virtualnet, off 107p to 205p. Voss Net, down 22p to 57p and Netcall, 18p cheaper at 67p.

These are all AIM-listed companies, and dealers on the junior exchange say they have never been so busy.

One said: "It was all private clients who've seen their money doubled every day. It was getting silly — Netcall is a telecom company, but its name suggests otherwise so up it goes."

The profit-taking also claimed victims amongst the FTSE 250 camp and WH Smith, seen by optimists as the next Amazon.com, fell 7 per cent to 571p.

Is shares have been in orbit since it agreed to buy AIM-listed Helicon Publishing, steady at 100p, becoming Britain's largest Internet bookseller.

Dixons, which connects 900,000 subscribers to the Internet for free, was also losing

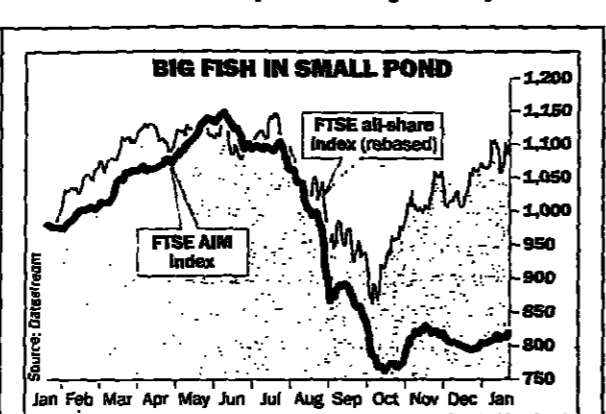


John Mayo, finance director, spent £262,000 of his own money buying GEC stock. The shares rose 4p yesterday

the covered status of quasi-Internet stock — falling 25p to 030p.

Smaller companies left out by the first phase of the Internet frenzy — usually those who make profits — continued to rank amongst the fastest-climbing small companies yesterday.

Intelligent Environments was the fastest riser, 32 per



IT has been a phenomenal fortnight for the Alternative Investment Market. Since Monday last week, seven of London's ten best risers have been listed on the junior exchange.

But to look at the FTSE AIM index, you would think nothing had happened.

Size is the problem. The index is weighted — so the fortunes of the hundreds of smaller companies are ironed out by nudges in the dozen stocks capitalised at over £100 million.

On-Line's 2,080 per cent rise would dent the FTSE AIM index by the same amount as a 3.7 per cent fall in Carlisle Holdings, its largest stock.

AIM has its bowlers, and its members usually fill the worst faller tables as well.

But the likes of Virtualnet, Intebank and Netcall demonstrate the kind of casino-like returns that only AIM is capable of generating — and are a reminder of why there is much more to the market than suggested by its index.

up 26 per cent — but it is a penny share and the advance was 44p to 20p. Much of the high-percentage gains on recent weeks have come from AIM's main selling point: the smaller they come, the faster they rise.

This has certainly worked for Arcadia, up 30p at 167p on relief that it had no nasty surprises in its Christmas trading statement. In theory, this is its best day yet on the stock market even though the 22 per cent rise takes the shares back to December levels.

No such luck for Alldays, the convenience store chain off another 25p at 67p. The fear is now that the "cashflow problems" it alluded to in its trading statement could mean breach of the banking covenants.

Bear raiders who did so well out of Bookers, off another penny to a new low of 46p, are seeing Alldays as a chance to relive their success.

The two companies both have the same problem — not so much sales, but sorting out the distribution between warehouse and shop.

After having agreed a £17 billion merger, GEC does not look particularly vulnerable, adding 4p to 529p. But John Mayo, its finance director, said yesterday he had spent £262,000 of his own money buying another 50,000 shares at 524p apiece.

The recent rumblings over First Leisure, tipped as a takeover target for Luminar, took a new turn yesterday on rumour that the deal may be constructed the other way round.

Industry sources believe Michael Grade, the cigar-chomping chief executive of First Leisure, and Stephen Thomas, his counterpart at Luminar, are contemplating a merger that could be couched as a nil-premium deal.

□ GILT-EDGED: The British Chamber of Commerce survey made for a cheery day in the futures pit, confirming tough conditions for the service sector. Treasury 10 per cent 2001 added five ticks to 110.5. Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was up 60.94 to 1155.66.

□ NEW YORK: After falling at the opening of trade as Brazilian stocks plunged, shares saw some recovery in late morning trade. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 8.49 points at 9,327.42.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones 9,327.42 (-8.49)

S&P Composite 1,246.23 (-10.39)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average 14,245.42 (+217.37)

Hong Kong:

Hong Kong 10,945.57 (-266.34)

Amsterdam:

AEX Index 543.78 (-38.49)

Sydney:

ASX 2,852.00 (-20.7)

Frankfurt:

DAX 5,196.67 (+136.61)

Singapore:

SEAC 1,804.06 (-44.21)

Brussels:

BESE 3,441.63 (-49.50)

Paris:

CAC-40 4,540.03 (-35.98)

Zurich:

SIX 1,430.20 (-22.00)

London:

FTSE 100 6,022.3 (-83.3)

FTSE 250 4,075.4 (-4.1)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

FTSE 100-Share 2,792.23 (-38.4)

Wolves on target

YESTERDAY'S raised offer for Marston Thompson & Evershed from Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries is by no means a knock-out, being some 10p lighter than many had hoped. But the increased cash element, and the fact that the offer is now at a 77 per cent premium over the pre-bid Marston price, underpin a persuasive Wolves argument.

The main difference between the two sides — apart from a not insurmountable disparity over predicted cost savings — is over the future of tenanted pubs versus managed houses. Marston wants to offload tenancies and close Wolves' breweries to focus on high street concepts such as Pilsner & Piano. Wolves, on the other hand, worships at the altar of vertical integration. Wolves is one of the most efficient brewers in the industry and for a regional — as the combined entity will remain —

integration is appropriate. Shareholders can also vest greater confidence in Wolves' management. Nick Lecher and Mike Thompson of Marston's attract well-placed praise for their securitisation gambit and the Pac-Man defence proposals, but the fact remains that they have not been in place long enough to prove themselves. Without that background, their schemes smack of too-dear-by-half financial engineering.

Meanwhile, David Thompson of Wolves has a wealth of brewing experience, having previously worked at Whitbread. He is widely recognised as a solid operator by his peers, and has put forward an eloquent and well-reasoned case in support of his bid for Marston's.

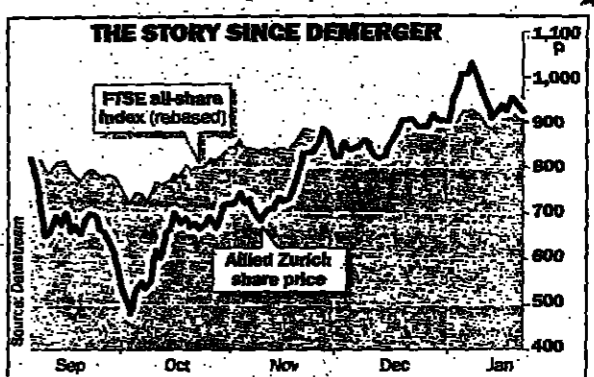
The result will be close. But unless Marston's comes back the Wolves offer is the better one and should be accepted.

Allied Zurich

SIX MONTHS ago, before the demerger of BAT Industries, it was an odds-on bet that the share price performance of the financial services company would leave the tobacco side in the shade. Events, however, have shown Allied Zurich scrambling to keep up with the market average, while the price of new British American Tobacco shares has soared.

New business figures from Zurich Financial Services, from which Allied Zurich derives its income and which it jointly owns with the Swiss firm confusingly called Zurich Allied, did nothing to change the picture. London listed Allied Zurich shares fell 20.5p — or 2.1 per cent — despite ZPS's 18 per cent rise in new business premiums.

Allied shares have caught the cold that has left many in-



Legal & General

LEGAL & GENERAL shares are, like Allied Zurich's, unattractive, although for rather different reasons. At 846p, up another 18p yesterday, the stock is at an all-time high. Moreover, the shares trade at a multiple of 40 times expected 1998 earnings per share. L&G may be a juicy takeover target, but even these doubtful hopes do not justify the stratospheric rating. Nor does L&G's power as an index-tracking fund manager. Nor does L&G's ability to capitalise on telephone direct sales channels while using independent and tied agent adviser networks effectively.

David Prosser, chief executive, held up yesterday's new business figures as proof that L&G has no need of a partner. At this price, it is barely imaginable it could get one.

And if one strips out personal equity plans — which are coming to an end this April — L&G's core 1998 UK

revenues rose by 13 per cent.

Regular premium business, generally seen as better-quality earnings than single premiums because they tend to stay on the books longer, grew by just under 12 per cent. This is better than competitors, but a far cry from the early and mid Nineties when life companies consistently reported 20, 30 per cent and even 40 per cent increases in regular premium contracts. Not only that, but the price-cutting march that L&G stole on competitors to win above-average sales growth in the recent past is increasingly threatened as rivals reallocate. Take profits.

John Menzies

JOHN MENZIES has been in steady decline until David Mackay took over 18 months ago, and its shares surged on hopes that his bold move away from newsgroups would pay off. Those hopes were somewhat dampened in summer, however, as the

mess in THE Home Entertainment became clear. Now margins in the newspaper distribution business are falling.

The direction in which the group is heading is more secure, however. Newspaper distribution margins fell only because longer-term contracts have been signed, and the business is a good cash generator. Growth can come from Menzies' second string, airport cargo handling. The EU is trying to break up the market, which it sees as monopolistic, and Menzies Transport Services is well placed to take advantage, having already entered into a joint venture with the largest cargo carrier in the world, Lufthansa.

If the management can overcome the THE and Early Learning Centre situations, the shares should progress. Moreover, there are funds available to acquire. But buyers need foresight.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

COMMODITIES

LIFTS			
Contract	Settle	Change	Settle
Mar 99	91.60	0.00	91.60
May 99	92.50	0.00	92.50
Jul 99	93.40	0.00	93.40
Sep 99	94.30	0.00	94.30
Nov 99	95.20	0.00	95.20
Jan 00	96.10	0.00	96.10
Mar 00	97.00	0.00	97.00
May 00	97.90	0.00	97.90
Jul 00	98.80	0.00	98.80
Sep 00	99.70	0.00	99.70
Nov 00	100.60	0.00	100.60
Jan 01	101.50	0.00	101.50
Mar 01	102.40	0.00	102.40
May 01	103.30	0.00	103.30
Jul 01	104.20	0.00	104.20
Sep 01	105.10	0.00	105.10
Nov 01	106.00	0.00	106.00
Jan 02	106.90	0.00	106.90
Mar 02	107.80	0.00	107.80
May 02	108.70	0.00	108.70
Jul 02	109.60	0.00	109.60
Sep 02	110.50	0.00	110.50
Nov 02	111.40	0.00	111.40
Jan 03	112.30	0.00	112.30
Mar 03	113.20	0.00	113.20
May 03	114.10	0.00	114.10
Jul 03	115.00	0.00	115.00
Sep 03	115.90	0.00	115.90
Nov 03	116.80	0.00	116.80
Jan 04	117.70	0.00	117.70
Mar 04	118.60	0.00	118.60
May 04	119.50	0.00	119.50
Jul 04	120.40	0.00	120.40
Sep 04	121.30	0.00	121.30
Nov 04	122.20	0.00	122.20
Jan 05	123.10	0.00	123.10
Mar 05	124.00	0.00	124.00
May 05	124.90	0.00	124.90
Jul 05	125.80	0.00	125.80
Sep 05	126.70	0.00	126.70
Nov 05	127.60	0.00	1

Costly drugs and mobile phones offer no cure for faltering market

Paul Durman
says price still matters for 'future stocks' behind the asset bubble

Here is a favourite fact from Phillips & Drew, the bearish fund manager. If every man, woman and child in the UK had a mobile phone, and all of them made £250 of calls a year, the industry's total revenue would still be only a third of the stock market value of the UK's mobile phone companies.

This back-of-the-envelope calculation was done before Vodafone's £40 billion takeover offer for AirTouch of the US drove the telecom sector's share prices to even more extreme levels.

Vodafone's share price is two and a half times what it was at the start of last year, and, at £35 billion, the company is now worth more than ten times this year's sales and about 50 times its forecast profits.

Orange, yet to make a profit, has quadrupled in value and is now worth £11 billion. BT is still dominated by traditional telephony but even it has seen its share price double.

Most extraordinary of all is the rise and rise of COLT Telecom. COLT's sales last year will have barely reached £30 million but it is already in the top half of the FTSE100 and is valued at £7.9 billion — more than big, long-established companies such as Bass, Salford and Alliance & Leicester.

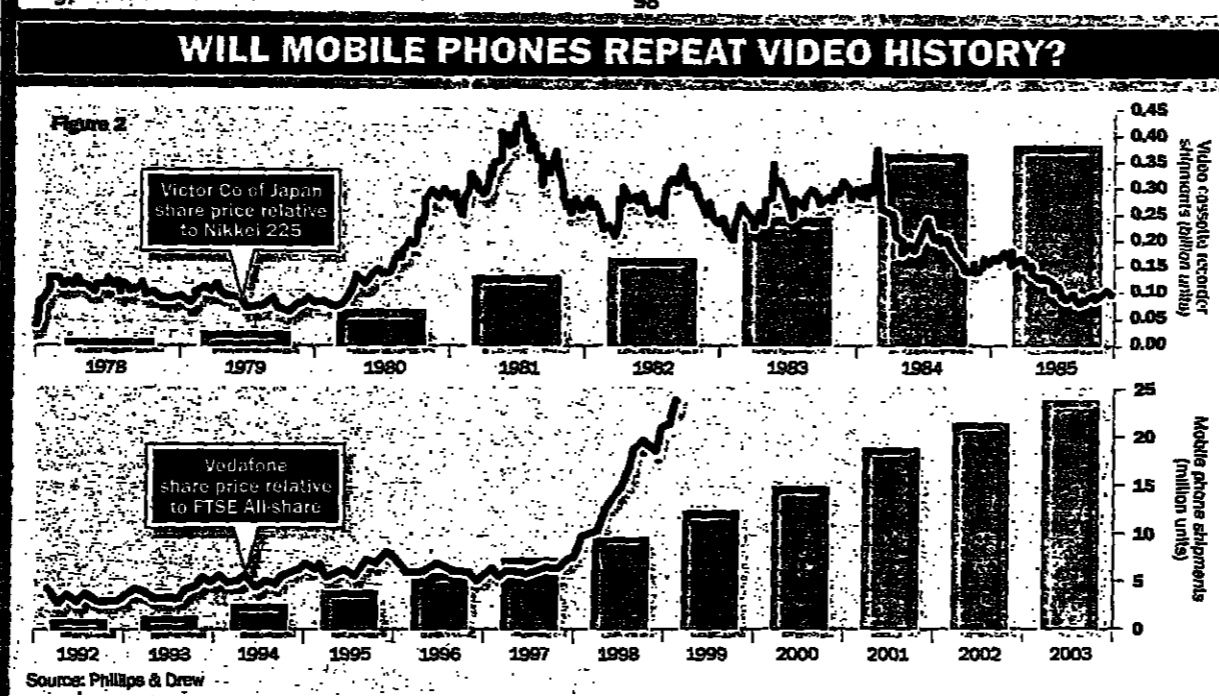
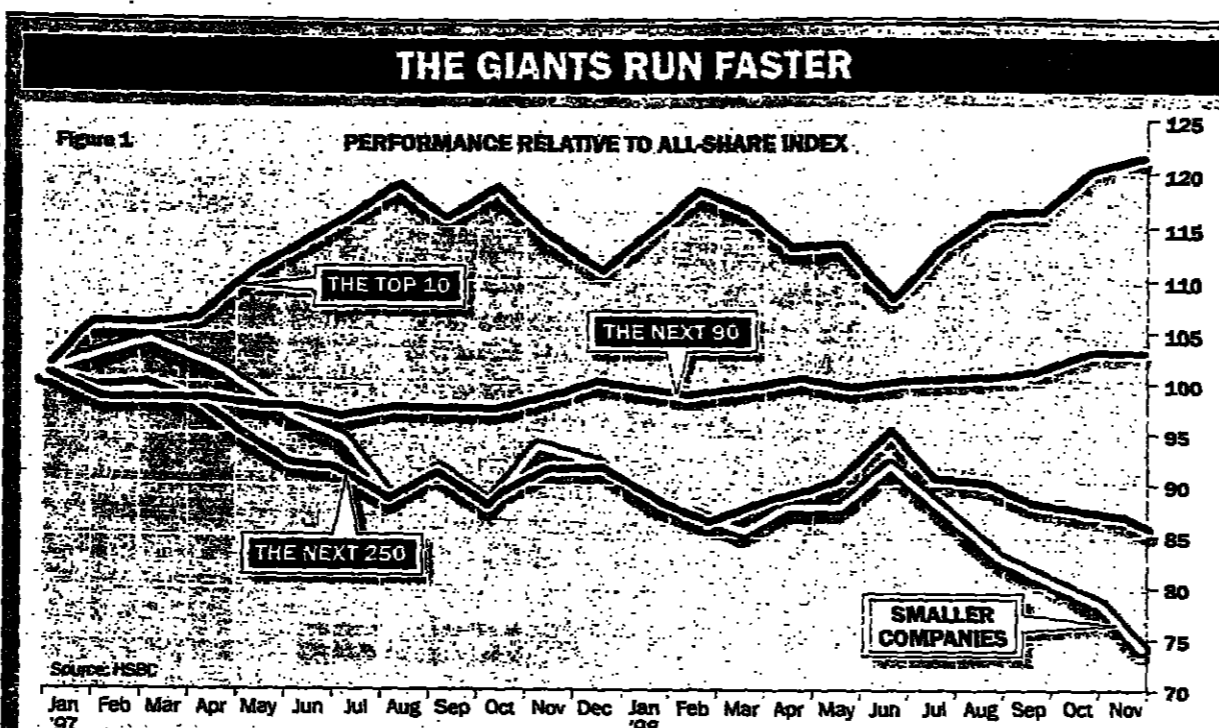
COLT has prompted many investors and commentators to wonder whether the market has taken leave of its senses, but still the upward rush continues. Investor enthusiasm does extend beyond the telecoms sector but only as far as pharmaceuticals and (less importantly) Internet-related stocks — which, bizarrely, has turned out to mean previously unloved retailers such as Dixons and WH Smith.

The investment logic is that in a low-inflation world struggling with recession in Asia and other emerging economies, investors are desperate to find "growth stocks" whose businesses will prosper in a downturn. And telecoms, healthcare and the Internet form a Holy Trinity of industries with unquestionable growth potential.

Even though telecom groups are battling with rapid technological change, pharmaceutical companies are facing patent expiries and fierce pricing pressures, and Internet firms have yet to figure out how to make a profit, it seems no price is too high for these hallowed stocks. Price/earnings ratios (when there are earnings on which to calculate them) have soared far above historical norms.

Rob Waugh, assistant director at Phillips & Drew, said: "We are watching this market with disbelief."

P&D's clients have suffered because of the firm's cautious stance on the market in recent years. With big stakes in BTR, Coors Virella and Sears, it is accused of buying the history of the stock market rather than its future. Nonetheless, the P&D



analysis — shared in part by many leading active managers — continues to pose difficult questions for telecoms fans.

The exceptional performance of a handful of very big companies is distorting what is going on in the UK stock market. Since the Russian economic crisis split over into Western financial markets last August, the FTSE 100 has climbed back to almost record levels.

However, Phillips & Drew argues, this is almost entirely due to the unjustified rise in the price of the largest companies. Much of the FTSE 100 is actually trading sideways or even in a bear market.

This can be seen from figure 1. It shows that the FTSE 100's outperformance of the wider stock market during 1997 and 1998 was almost entirely due to the ten largest companies. The

rest of the index barely kept pace. The escalating value of the big ten is scarcely explained by their profits performance. Table 2 suggests the largest companies will, on average, report a 6 per cent decline in profits for their latest financial year, largely because of the collapsing oil price and Glaxo Wellcome's loss of Zantac sales.

Glaxo's profits are predicted to bounce back strongly this year because of a series of new drugs. But does this justify the 150 per cent rise in the share price since the start of 1997?

Its p/e ratio relative to the FTSE All-share index — a measure of its expensiveness compared with the rest of the stock market — doubled to about 15 between 1994 and the start of 1998. But since then it has soared even further, recently peaking at 2.75. The stampede of the

giant companies is being driven by sheer weight of money. In part this comes from the US: investment managers awash with mutual fund cash are turning to Europe. Many are restricting their buying to the largest 200 or so companies.

More important still is the growing influence of the dot-com. More and more investors are buying shares in the biggest companies simply because they are the biggest companies. This can be self-perpetuating: as Vodafone and COLT rise through the ranks of the FTSE 100, they attract an ever greater weight of funds.

This phenomenon extends well beyond true index funds. Actively managed pension funds, tired of underperform-

ing, have moved closer and closer to an index weighting.

An analysis by Schroder Securities showed pension funds were significantly underweight in the big four sectors of oil, drugs, telecoms and banks at the end of 1996. But since then, closed indexing has prompted pension funds to increase their weighting in these sectors from 87 to 96 per cent.

Mr Waugh said: "Everyone's been hit too hard. Nobody can afford to take their own positions any more. They are saying: 'We can't take the pain. Let's just buy the bloody things.'"

Part of the problem is the cult of equity. Investors are so comfortable with the idea of better returns from stock market investment that they find it hard to imagine how they might lose by investing money in a great

company such as Glaxo Wellcome. Yes, the shares may fall in the short term, but in the long run shares will always outperform other investments, won't they? Price becomes almost an irrelevance.

Table 1 shows how badly flawed this thinking has proved in the past. It shows the performance over seven years of ten well-known members of the Nifty 50 — the great US corporations that turned in barnstorming performances in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Companies such as McDonalds, Disney and IBM continued to produce respectable profits growth. Yet the share prices of these and all the other examples declined as the stock market underwent a massive de-rating. The p/e ratios of the Nifty 50 fell by almost 80 per cent.

Mobile phones and the Internet are exciting opportunities, but stock markets have seen many new technologies in the past — and have frequently overvalued them. Figure 2 shows the tremendous growth in JVC's share price that attended the arrival of the video cassette recorder. But while VCR sales continued to grow, JVC's share price went into reverse as competition drove down returns. Can Vodafone really retain its huge margins, or is it facing the same fate?

Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve, whose reading of financial markets is almost universally applauded, sounds regular warnings about stock market levels. This week he said the high level of US share prices "would appear to envision substantially greater growth of profits than has been experienced of late". Despite shrinking profit forecasts and the economic problems in Brazil and elsewhere, the markets in the US and UK have repeatedly brushed off such cautions. UK stocks were this week trading at a record multiple of profits.

Meanwhile, markets continue to display behaviour which, if not irrational, is certainly highly peculiar. The startling rises of any company that can claim a link with the Internet is the most obvious example.

Daily market movements of more than 100 points have become routine as price volatility has risen sharply. For the

best, these are danger signals. Even those who sympathise with this analysis find it hard to imagine what will bring the bull run to an end — particularly because of the weight of money pouring into the markets from US retail savings. The markets have shrugged off the October 1997 scare, Russia, Long Term Capital Management and now Brazil.

Phillips & Drew argues that the support from the "weight of money" is illusory. It really indicates a preference for people to hold liquid assets. The US savings ratio has dropped so low it has turned negative — surely an unsustainable position.

Most investors find it hard to conceive that the market might fall by more than 10 or perhaps 20 per cent. After all, the economic outlook in many Western economies remains relatively sanguine.

However, with the largest companies trading at such racy prices, the risk is that when the bubble bursts the ensuing crash will be similarly extravagant. The US economy looks almost invulnerable — just like Japan ten years ago.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Imperative that US sets example on free trade

From Mr L. Rampersaud, Sir. The article published on January 13, 1999, titled "US facing trade war with Japan and Europe" illustrates America's "true" commitment to free trade. It reinforces the view that the GATT and indeed its son, the WTO, was only set up for the gains of its designers.

Indeed, while the US was unchallenged as an economic power, it sought to open international markets for its exports: when its economic strength, at least in relative terms, started to shrink it was less keen. This is precisely what can be seen from Charles Barshefsky's mercantilist view on Japanese steel imports.

From a country that is meant to be committed to free trade, we are seeing escalating protectionism and strong reminders of the 1980s when charges of dumping were the protectionist's weapon of choice and nearly 80 per cent of all actions brought against foreign competitors were anti-dumping cases. The Uruguay Round neglected this issue because the negotiators with the most muscle, the US and what was then the EC, broadly agreed to make the anti-dumping code in GATT more effective. We should be wary of terms like "more effective" which under closer inspection actually mean "more protectionist".

It is important that the fundamental basis for trade must not be lost sight of: that it is relatively cheaper to produce goods in some countries than others.

The real task for the future of trade talks is how it should deal with the emergence of regionalism. If we are to avoid regional trade wars dominated by the US, Japan and Europe, the leading governments in our world economy should not stray from the liberalist principles of the trade talks.

The weakening of the multilateral approach has been gradual and by neglect through the accumulation of ad hoc decisions to protect specific sectors. These departures from the original design of free trade agreements have created a period of instability and uncertainty in international trade relations. It is essential for the US to set an example as indeed your City Editor points out on January 13: "the open trading system depends on that American commitment."

Yours faithfully,
Luke Rampersaud,
79 Cliffsea Grove,
Essex SS9 1NG.

Benefits of working time directive

From Mr Ian McCartney, Minister of State, Department of Trade and Industry

Sir, The Working Time Directive (Commentary, January 8 and 9) gives the basic rights to workers that most people take for granted, but which have been denied to far too many for far too long.

Many agency workers work part time in order to balance work and family life. They need regular rest breaks and paid leave just as much as anyone else. That is why the Government has included them in the scope of the Working Time Directive. Agencies already keep a note of their workers' hours.

The only extra requirement is to ensure that staff do not work more than 48 hours a week on average without their agreeing in advance to do so. And providing paid leave on a pro rata basis in no way should need a doubling of charges. The best companies provide paid leave, rest breaks and a sensible working week because they recognise that people need time away from the workplace.

Workers in other European countries benefit from the Working Time Directive. Its introduction into the UK was long overdue.
IAN MCCARTNEY,
1 Victoria Street,
London SW1H 0ET.

Panel must recognise impartiality

From Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale

Sir, I would like to rectify one point in your Commentary of January 7. I am not questioning the essence of the Panel on Takeovers and Mergers. I do question its present operational practice in terms of enforcement of its own spirit, Principles and Rules, and its executive structure which ignores the "Rule against Bias".

I do believe that he or she must be seen to be impartial. It is relevant that the Panel it

self recognises the need for impartiality in Section 1(e) of the introduction to the Code. It could also recognise this at the executive level as there are three deputy directors general who would have to act if the director general were indisposed. They could therefore surely act if there is a potential conflict of interest. Yours faithfully,
WOLFSON,
The Great Universal Stores,
Leconfield House,
Curzon Street W1Y 7FL.

TEN FROM THE US FIFTY FIFTY...

TABLE 1	December 31, 1972				October 31, 1979
	PRICE	EPS	P/E	PRICE	EPS
Pfizer	38	2.7	22	21	3.9
Coca-Cola	75	1.6	48	34	3.2
Glaxo	109	1.3	82	37	3.4
General Electric	73	2.8	26	48	5.9
IBM	80	2.2	37	92	5.4
Johnson & Johnson	150	2.1	62	98	5.3
McDonald's	176	0.5	85	44	4.3
Pfizer	125	1.4	91	28	3.3
Shaw-Worthington	56	1.9	31	59	6.4
Merck	149	2.1	49	67	4.2
AVERAGE	100	2.0	39.4	67	5.0

*Compound annual growth rate

...AND THE UK TOP TEN

TABLE 2	% profit change year to Dec '98	PE ratio Dec '98
BP	-25	25
Glaxo	-7	46
BT (to March '99)	8	30
Lloyds TSB	5	21
HSBC	12	16
British Airways	-25	25
Shell	32	60
Vodafone (to March '99)	1	21
Diageo	3	37
Zanussi	-3	27
AVERAGE		

Source: HSBC, Phillips & Drew

Latin prep

AS WE pointed out in the Commentary yesterday, Bernard Asher may be relieved that he did not release Lomrho Africa's awful results before shareholders rejected Blakeney Management's attempts to oust him as the company's chairman. But it appears he is not out of the jungle yet.

The company's first annual general meeting since demerging from Lomrho is to take place next month. Mr Asher is not up for re-election, arguing that he does not need to stand as he survived the EGM vote. However,

I understand that a number of legal experts are already pouring over the company's articles of association and the Companies Act to see if this is actually the case. If it is not Mr Asher may have to face his shareholders for a second time.

Meanwhile, Blakeney has not gone away. Miles Mordant, the fund manager's boss, tells me that he was going to send out a detailed press release attacking Lomrho Africa's results but decided merely to say "Res ipsa loquitur", which is Latin for "the thing speaks for itself".

WITH the departure of Victoria Egan as Laura Ashley only five months after the arrival, it seems that the clothing retailer has decided on spring and autumn chief executives.

Sole invites

THOSE boys at Belgo Group are an odd lot. The invitations that have gone out for the opening of the new Belgo restaurant in New York at the end of this month are attached to a variety of clearly well-worn shoes. I'm told that this has got something to do with a Belgian beer that is traditionally served in an expensive wooden stand. Apparently, the waiters would only serve you the beer if you handed



over a shoe, the theory being that you would get your shoe back once you'd handed the wooden stand back.

What's more, following in the vein of its two London restaurants, Belgo Noord and Belgo Centraal, the new venue is to be called Belgo Nieuw York. The boys have also come up with a bizarre spelling for their new Vietnamese-style restaurant opening in March in London's Percy Street. It will be called Bambou (sic).

Rothschild joy

I UNDERSTAND that the Champagne corks are popping at the Paris office of NM Rothschild (OK, OK I know that the Paris office is called Rothschild et Cie, get off my back). The reason for this jollity is that Rothschild has emerged as the top bank in French mergers and acquisi-

tions for 1998, according to the appropriately but unconvincingly named magazine *Fusions & Acquisitions*.

The rise of the house of Rothschild has caused much consternation in Paris, as it signals one and for all the decline of Lazard Frères, the merchant bank that was once so powerful that it virtually ran France. In 1997 Lazard was eclipsed by Goldman Sachs. Un blip, suggested local experts. But in the following year Lazard was pushed back into third, with Goldman second.

All this is seen as more power to the elbow of David de Rothschild, heir apparent to Sir Evelyn as leader of the family bank and founder of Rothschild et Cie. But also watch out for the Paris dealmaker, Edward de Rothschild — David's half brother.

TRIPPING down Piccadilly the other day I thought I might pop into Simpson's to pick up some bargains in the "Good buy" sale. But what is this I hear over the piped music? The 1970s hit I Will Survive by Gloria Gaynor. Alas, as Simpson's is to close and will become a branch of Waterstones, it won't.

Single success

AS Neil Kinnock and John Kentley have proved, nothing improves your image among yool quite as much as featuring in a pop song. Remember Tracey Ullman's version of *They Don't Know* — or Tribe of Toff's John Kentley is a Weatherman? Phil White, chief executive of National

Express, had hoped for similar stardom when he learned that The Divine Comedy (a pop group, by the way) was releasing a single called *National Express*. He played the CD to analysts, gave it away to the press, and offered to appear in the video for a cameo role — maybe as a bus driver.

Alas, the group have decided to shoot the entire video in a mental hospital with the lead singer being wheeled around acting like a madman. The main reference to buses comes in a gratuitously rude line about a stewardess. Never mind, there's always the hope of a remake of *On The Buses*.

JASON NISSÉ



Neil Hannon of The Divine Comedy: on the buses



The clock's for long service — I've been here nearly three months

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

THE TIMES

Make your family or friends living abroad feel at home this

NEW YEAR

Set up a subscription to *The Times* for them at substantial discounts off local cover price and let them enjoy early morning delivery on the day of publication.

THE TIMES... Your family and friends are missing the best of quality reading without it!

COUNTRY	CURRENCY	SUBSCRIPTION RATES			
		THREE MONTHS	SIX MONTHS	NINE MONTHS	ONE YEAR
GERMANY	DM	198.00	352.00	472.00	608.00
FRANCE	FF	1048.00	1936.00	2576.00	3296.00
ITALY	L	1048.00	1936.00	2576.00	3296.00
NETHERLANDS	fl.	104.80	193.60	257.60	329.60
SPAIN	P	1048.00	1936.00	2576.00	3296.00
SWITZERLAND	S	104.80	193.60	257.60	329.60
USA (including Alaska)	\$	49.00	89.00	119.00	159.00

Some city time delivery is available on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Please contact your local subscription agent for details. Delivery is guaranteed by air to all countries. Delivery is guaranteed by air to all countries. Delivery is guaranteed by air to all countries.

The Times Subscription Form

Family/Friend's Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Yes! I want to receive THE TIMES for:

☐ 12 months ☐ 6 months ☐ 3 months

☐ Monday to Saturday ☐ Saturday only

Payment by:

☐ Cheque (made payable to News International)

☐ Credit card (+): ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard/Access ☐ AmEx

No. _____ Exp. _____

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

(*) Debited in £ Starting at the current exchange rate

Please return to: News International, Subscription Department, PO Box 478, Virginia Water, Surrey, GU24 0PL. Telephone: 00 44 1753 752 6130. Fax: 00 44 1753 752 6130

CHANGING TIMES

30 EQUITY PRICES

Equities down on Brazil fears

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Equities down on Brazil fears

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

BANKS

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

ELECTRICITY

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

BUILDING MATERIALS

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

CHEMICALS

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

ENGINEERING

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

CONSTRUCTION

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

DISTRIBUTORS

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

HEALTHCARE

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

INSURANCE

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

LONGS (over 15 years)

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

INDEX-LINKED (on projected inflation of)

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

PHARMACEUTICALS

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

RETAILERS, FOOD

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

RETAILERS, GENERAL

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

WATER

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

SUPPORT SERVICES

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

PRINTING & PAPER

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

PROPERTY

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

TRANSPORT

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

OIL & GAS

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

LEISURE & HOTELS

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

OTHER FINANCIAL

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

MEDIA

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

PHARMACEUTICALS

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

RETAILERS, FOOD

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

RETAILERS, GENERAL

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

WATER


1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					

SUPPORT SERVICES

1998 Low Company	Price	%	1998 Low Company	Price	%
1519 1776 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800 1800					



Coffee Morning
 £100,000
 01403 210406
 ACTION RESEARCH

5-6 March 1999 Pot of Gold

Coffee Morning

£100,000

01403 210406

ACTION RESEARCH

50 من الجدل

UNIT TRUST PRICES 31

هكذا من الضمير

THE TIMES

ARTS



THEATRE

MEASURES
for the
GETS DONE

POP



Hollywood is never short of people tossing bizarre writs at each other. You have heard of vanity publishing? Well, this is vanity suing. But even hardened observers of Tinseltown trauma are awestruck by the latest wacky courtroom tiff. A Los Angeles judge is at present pondering whether Dustin Hoffman, a movie star of the most dogged Method-Acting persuasion, should be awarded \$5 million in damages because *Los Angeles* magazine depicted him in a woman's dress without seeking his permission.

Students of motion-picture history will realise that there are complex cultural references involved here. In his 1982 hit *Tootsie*, Hoffman did indeed dress up as a woman — and very ravishing he looked, too. So why is the magazine being sued? Apparently because it showed Hoffman in the *wrong sort of dress*. Using computer technology it doctored the *Tootsie* poster, removing a rather M&S-style red gown from Hoffman's little body and replacing it with a fetching off-the-shoulder number. The altered

picture was then put on the fashion pages with the caption "Dustin Hoffman isn't a drag in a butter-colored silk gown by Richard Tyler and Ralph Lauren heels."

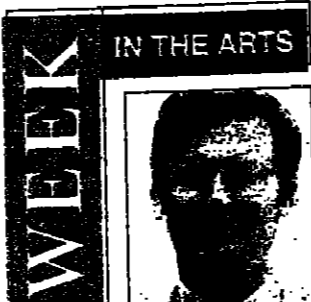
Had such an unauthorised vision of loveliness appeared in an advertisement, Hoffman's case for compensation would be much stronger: his image would clearly have been exploited for commercial gain. But Hoffman cannily claims that a magazine's fashion spread is virtually an advertisement for the clothes portrayed.

Nonsense, the magazine retorts. Fashion pages are editorial, and therefore protected by the First Amendment. I leave historians to ponder whether Benjamin Franklin's noble prose of the American Constitution to be applied to the case of a cross-dressing actor depicted in a frock that is not his own. It's not impossible, I suppose.

Anyway, Hoffman — who seems to live in an irony-free zone — says that his "right of publicity" has been violated. On the other hand, *Los Angeles* magazine's position is also not without ironies. After all, it is owned by Disney, one of the world's most litigious organisations when protecting its own sacred Mickey Mouse trademark.

Of course there are bigger issues involved here than Hoffman's bust size. The phrase "the camera never lies" has always been one of the world's great lies. People have been tampering with photographs since snapping began. Either it has been done whimsically, as in that celebrated 1917 "proof" of fairies at the bottom of someone's garden; or for more sinister reasons, as when banished ministers disappeared retrospectively from official photographs in Stalin's Russia.

But computers have made photograph manipulation much more so-



RICHARD MORRISON

phisticated. For instance, I could approach some mischievous operative in *The Times* graphics department with two perfectly sober photographs of, say, Miss Melinda Messenger and the Archbishop of Canterbury — and within minutes we could fiddle the originals so that these two pillars of British soci-

ety appeared to be caught in the most thrilling conjunction.

Nor is this dangerous technological alchemy confined to still images. So many television advertisements now tamper with old films in the cause of flogging new cars (think of Dennis Hopper appearing to motor past his younger self in *Easy Rider*) that the trick has become a cliché. Now there is talk of creating "new" Marlene Dietrich and Greta Garbo movies. The computer will digitally store the screen legends' characteristic body movements and vocal traits, then feed them as required into new scenes and dialogue.

A macabre idea? Perhaps, but I bet the interest will be enormous. After all, tomorrow a vast crowd will gather at Wembley Arena for *Elvis Presley — The Concert*, in which the voice and screen image of the pelvisically mobile one will be meshed electronically with live

backing from his former associates. This marks the first time that an entertainer who is no longer living has headlined a concert. Have they never seen the Royal Variety Performance?

You don't have to be Mystic Morrison to foresee image manipulation becoming one of the big legal battlegrounds. More and more celebrities will be going to court, *à la* Dustin, to protect their "right of publicity".

Learned friends will have a ball. And what about the rights of the dead? Who is to say that Garbo would have approved of her computerised image early presiding over some sultry new drama? Surely at this late stage in her career she really might want to be alone.

The easy answer is "her heirs and estate will protect her". But one's dearly beloved relatives are

not necessarily the most scrupulous guardians of one's posthumous reputation, especially if they can smell money in the air. Has Jacqueline du Pré been well served by her sister? I merely ask.

The fact is that computerised image manipulation, like genetic engineering, has leapt out at us before we have had time to devise a relevant code of ethics. But the genie can't be stuffed back into the bottle now. People in public life probably have to accept that if they want to breathe the heady oxygen of publicity they must renounce control of their image for ever. There's no point in suddenly shouting at the media, in the immortal words of the Princess Royal, "Why don't you just naff off?" They won't.

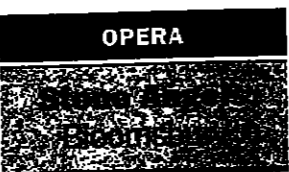
So all in all, I think Dustin has been a bit daft. Mind you, if *Los Angeles* magazine ever depicts me in a Richard Tyler silk gown I shall certainly sue. For one thing, the Editor has exclusive serialisation rights to the bodies of all *Times* journalists. For another, I never wear anything except Armani. And a string vest in winter, of course.

DEE CONWAY

Guns and girls were all Greek to us

As someone sings in *The Mikado*, "and I am right, and you are right, and everything is quite correct," which just about sums up Paul Barker's new children's opera, given just two performances on Wednesday and Thursday by Lantano and the New London Children's Choir. The general message is that war is simply frightful and killing people awfully wrong, something that those who go to opera in Western Europe have more or less hoisted in, but maybe Lantano is planning an extensive tour of the Balkans, followed by a run at the Pentagon.

The piece is also written for girls only, 26 of them, but after that the correctness starts to



OPERA

wear a bit thin. *Stone Angels* lasts for about 40 minutes, and there is a long synopsis in the programme, a wise precaution since without it even the most warm-hearted audience would be hard put to know what on earth was going on.

Roughly speaking, survivors of an air crash on an island off Greece encounter two groups of girls: Stoners (proper little Ladies of the Files, nasty) and Glooks (peaceable, nice). War is raging overhead.

After assorted ill-organised mayhem — the dramaturgy is simply chaotic — one of the girls refuses to flee the Stoners, half of whom are so surprised that they lay down their stones and join her before everyone shame-facedly shuffles off stage — the direction, such as there is, is chaotic as well. Empty stage, long postlude, end of opera. In one very peculiar episode, aircraft manned by the girls' parents (I think I'm right) drop pornographic magazines on the island, and it was here that the absence of any boys seemed especially regrettable.

Barker is an experienced opera composer and cannot be accused of writing down to his performers: tricky intervals

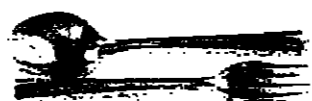
and rhythms, vocal lines hard to pitch. Fine, but the children — all of whom deserve highest praise — had to concentrate so hard on their music that words took second place and were often inaudible, and passages in Greek were no help. There was a great deal of speech and melodrama, and neat differentiation of musical language for the two groups. Odaline de la Martinez conducted the five-strong Lantano chamber group efficiently.

The main point of interest in the evening was how it all came to pass. The absence of anyone to pull it into some sort of coherent dramatic shape proved fatal.

RODNEY MILNES

St Trinian's revisited: members of the excellent New London Children's Choir struggle through the chaotic *Stone Angels*

It's true.
Food does
taste better
out of a
newspaper.



Don't miss next Monday's Times for your chance to eat out at one of over 800 restaurants for just 35.
See The Times next week for your 48-page restaurant guide.

<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

Offer not applicable in Republic of Ireland.

CHANGING TIMES

Magic circle

CONCERTS

Goehr's is the pithy, if less than elegant, title of an enterprising series of concerts taking place in Cambridge over the next couple of months. The occasion is the retirement of Alexander Goehr, who has been Professor of Music at Cambridge University since 1976, but the opportunity has been taken to celebrate and promote the work of the many composers who have come within Goehr's orbit over the past quarter-century. Robin Holloway and Hugh Wood, along with Goehr himself, have been at the centre of this circle, but younger generations too (George Benjamin, Julian Anderson, Thomas Adès and many others) have come to prominence and all are represented in Goehr's.

For the opening concert on Wednesday night in the West Road Concert Hall, the University's Quartet in Residence, the Endellion String Quartet, gave a neatly balanced programme of Haydn, Schumann and Goehr (the latter's String Quartet No 3, dating

from 1975-76). If the first movement of the Goehr was modelled to some extent, by the composer's own admission, on Beethoven (specifically the E Minor Piano Sonata Op 90), then the second movement recalls Haydn in its quizzically conversational phrase endings. The third movement is altogether more opaque, however, more densely argued, and the Endellion steered an adroit course through these difficult waters.

In Haydn's Quartet in D Major Op 71 No 2 the ensemble's close rapport enabled it to explore a range of moods over the course of the four movements. Well-sprung rhythms gave a buoyant feel to the faster passages, while the Adagio cantabile was as sonful as its title implies.

Schumann's debt to Beethoven, in his A Minor Quartet Op 41 No 1, is rather more explicit than Goehr's. In the Adagio, the long-breathed main theme inevitably recalls the slow movement of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. The Endellion succeeded in sustaining these arching lines throughout the movement, and offered a smoothly contoured, rather than sharply defined discourse in the first movement. Despite Schumann's dedication of the quartet to Mendelssohn, they perhaps rightly treated the Scherzo not as one of that composer's elfin creations but as a surdier, more passionate utterance.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Going solo

We've seen the conductor, we've admired the soprano wife and now we've heard the instrumentalist. Or some of us have. The prospect of witnessing Sakari Oramo's first appearance as a violinist in Symphony Hall, directing the strings of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in Bach's Concerto in E major while coping with the solo part, proved to be a less than irresistible attraction. Bearing in mind the rest of the eccentrically compiled programme, which included also Jean-Féry Rebel's *Les Éléments* and Brahms's Second Symphony, it is not very surprising.

Obviously those who stayed away are not to be credited with any kind of prescience but the fact is, it was not a particularly persuasive performance of the Bach. It was intelligently phrased and coloured and, though not exactly authentic, it was more than acceptably stylish. The violin line seemed thin in these acoustic conditions, however, and there was not much improvement in this respect even when the soloist-director's nerves settled down and what had been

an overbright sound, relaxed into something less edgy.

After the Bach, it made good musical sense, if not good box office, to go on to another, more roguish work of a quite different kind. The beginning of *Les Éléments*, which opens with a prelude called *Chaos* and with dissonant harmonies based on a chord of the 13th, is quite astonishing. The pre-Strauss use of two piccolos to represent birdsong and the pre-Wagner fire music are less sensational but no less interesting. It was difficult, on the other hand, to believe in the legitimacy of the cellist-like yelps from members of the orchestra in the *Tambourin*. Until a smart musicologist demonstrates the authenticity of these interventions scepticism is not out of order.

As the most Baroque-minded of the great composers of the 19th century, Brahms was well placed in the second half of the concert. It was reassuring to hear the Second Symphony so well done in the traditionally mellow, lyrical manner with nothing too urgent or querulous about it, with a splendidly sonorous orchestral presence, sensitively shaped instrumental solos and a powerfully cumulative structural purpose. If the brass-laden ending seemed more maudlin than triumphant, more in the manner of Tchaikovsky than Brahms, that was the one miscalculation in an otherwise idiomatically and perceptively characterised interpretation.

GERALD LARNER

Still under a cloud

Robert Holman's play *Bad Weather* has not improved on the journey from Stratford to the Barbican. Set on a rough Middlesbrough housing estate, all broken windows, families and lives, it purports to question whether environment, upbringing or innate character breeds bad behaviour. Every so often, a thoughtful and subtle line rises to the surface, only to sink under the weight of an under-articulated script.

Teenage troublemaker Jamie is on trial for a crime committed by his friend Luke, whose 17-year-old sister Rhona is carrying Jamie's child. Rhona tries to convince Luke to confess; Jamie's mother Kay is not so sure, since she turns out to care more for Luke than her son. Noel, a juror who believes in Jamie's innocence, pitches

in by starting an adulterous affair with Kay, and he and Rhona summon Kay's old French nanny to sort things out.

French nannies? Council estates? Implausibly, Kay is the heir to a viticultural fortune frittered away by a spendthrift mother. This allows everyone (except poor Jamie, who has been put away for four years) to up sticks and go picnicking in the Loire, where the sadistic, cruelly severe nanny succumbs to the adolescent attractions of Luke. And like Kay refuses to trade him in for Jamie's freedom. Silly enough anyway, but unfortunately, Paul Popplewell's callow, charmless Luke makes a wholly unconvincing sex-god, which turps does any last shred of credibility.

Too often the dialogue is artificial, and though a constant, if studied, intensity holds the attention, Steven Pimlott's static direction fails to liven things up. But there are incidental pleasures. The promising Emma Handy yaks away engagingly as spiky motormouth Rhona, and Ryan Pope's forceful Jamie manages to balance whining self-pity with residual pride. Susan Brown as Kay is impressively touching. *Bad Weather* does much with what it has, but it is not a great play. The unobtrusive but all-gratified-metastasis shutters and concrete slabs — a bit like the Barbican — gives good service.

"It's all degrees, a bit of knowledge here, a bit of understanding there. I'm all a mess," says Luke towards the end. To be charitable, maybe Holman intended to suggest that understanding motivations, ascribing guilt, is an impossible task. If so, it does not make for gripping drama. A brave play, but ultimately unrewarding.

NIGEL CLIFF



Caught in the Bard's Viennese whirl Robert Glenister plays the Duke as a man propelled into a nervous breakdown, while Clare Holman is an Isabella pushed on to the sidelines

Beauty and a universal beast

Most actors playing the Duke begin *Measure for Measure* in fine, princely style. They calmly hand over the running of Vienna to the pious Angelo and sedately leave for their sabbatical. Not in Michael Boyd's production. Robert Glenister stumps grey-faced in a chair with a gin bottle while extracts from Revelation play on the wooden wall behind him, and then, hearing his aides heading down the door, tatters down a walkway into the stalls. Angelo, Escalus et al are left to hear his instructions relayed to them via the sort of creaky gramophone you might have found in Schneider's Vienna, circa 1900.

It is awkward, it is uncomfortable, it is not what you want, but it is a more overtly political statement than most, and, though I blinked at the moment

gentleman of all temperance; yet I cannot regret it. One reason why *Measure for Measure* is classified as a problem play is that the Duke's motives in disguising himself as a friar and spying on Angelo are hard to explain in any normal way: so hard that scholars have been impelled to see him as symbolising God, Christ, James I, Heaven knows whom. Glenister's Duke has, you feel, been propelled into a nervous breakdown by the confusions and contradictions, expectations and disappointments of exercising power in messy Vienna. How will a quite different kind of man — the cool, tough, stateless Angelo — deal with the pressure?

This company does the play a more overtly political statement than most, and, though I blinked at the moment

THEATRE

when the returning Duke's irregulars dismissed Angelo's well-drilled officers and ensured that there would be no coup in dear old Vienna, I cannot regret that either.

Stephen Boxer gives a quietly terrifying performance as the corrupt incorruptible himself. At first he wears the sort of Russian peasant costume that Bolshevik intellectuals affected in the early days, later a grey uniform that, were you to add a swastika or skull emblem, would suggest the SS. And all along he justifies what might

be sartorial trickiness with the quality of his acting.

Boxer's Angelo is aggressive, cynical, arrogantly self-confident, contemptuous of lesser mortals and, in his frosty, dispassionate way, very fond indeed of power. We have heard this man's dehumanising rhetoric in our own era: the all-too-credible vow to sacrifice his brother or son to some abstract "justice"; the frightening declaration that he shows most pity when he is harshest, "for then I pity those I do not know". He will no doubt be primarily spreading misery in the next century too, for he is a universal monster.

Boyd's approach, bold and even brilliant though it is, rewards some areas of the play more than others. The object of Angelo's predatory lust, Isabella, is somewhat sidelined, feel-

ingly played though she is by Clare Holman. But the brothel and jail scenes are pretty strong. When whores are lazily whipping transvestite men, or the pimp Pompey is playing comically sadistic games with his fellow prisoners, you can see why Boxer's punitive Angelo has political appeal.

You can also see why Glenister's human, tolerant Duke has despaired. His rendering of the great speech about the virtues of death comes across, not as a prolonged extract from the *Dictionary of Quotations*, but as a personal expression of ontological derision. After all, in a world as ungovernable as this, how does a good prince cope?

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Talking body language

Clothes? They're so, like, yesterday. Even royal ty now knows that what really talks is the body and what you do to it: pierce it, tattoo it, cut it, expose it. Mass communication has destroyed the tribalism of costume: every kid from Tashkent to Tokyo sports identikit combat pants and funky Nikes; the Mods must be turning in their parkas.

Performed, for the most part, in the nude, Gilles Jobin's *A+B-X* creates a new abstract of the human body. The three performers pull themselves through dim pools of greenish light in a series of extraordinary contortions, now headless, now dismembered, now popping with strings of tensed muscle; the low unnatural colour picking out their contours like an alien landscape.

Positions more often seen in the pages of *Readers' Wives* are rendered sexless, played out against a harsh industrial soundtrack. Such conceptualism is cut through with a knowing humour: after spending a quarter of an hour with their naked bottoms held aloft, the trio retreat with a comic wiggle of their rears, in a kind of "arty crowd you may be, but we know what you're looking at" fashion.

In a way the dehumanisation of *A+B-X* is easier to accept because of the perfection on display: not simply of the bodies themselves, but of the sustained control of the extruding sequences they put themselves through. The clean lines of the movement pieces are framed by film footage of the arch self-mutilator Franco B in all his ghoulish glory.

Predictably, the moment the cast don clothing, they appear more exposed than before, and the sight of Jobin mooning is surprisingly grim. The final performed image of a woman standing naked with her face covered, glowing white in the glare of four spotlights, is still shockingly vulnerable, despite all that has gone before: the naked body is after all, always more than the sum of its parts.

HETTIE JUDAH

Positively uninhibited

In his new play Brad Fraser continues to make his characters jump through the hoops of love, sex and honesty. Is it possible, so his cartoonist hero Matt is presumably asking, to manage all three at the same time? Matt is gay, in a fitfully tolerant Toronto, and the immensely successful

creator of *Spun Boy*, and *Fridge Magnet Girl*, whose adventures we see him developing with his working partner, Rachel. Played at the Royal Exchange by Ben Daniels, he is handsome, effervescent and projects the character's fierce intelligence, but he has now turned 30: none of his relation-

ships has lasted beyond three months, not even an early marriage (shown in Fraser's previous play, *Poor Super Man*). If the fault lies not in himself, might it be a consequence of being gay, in a world predominantly straight, or living at the time of *Aids*? Airing these concerns, he embarks on an affair with Ian Gelder's politician, whose guilt-fuelled domestic arrangements suggest successful hoop-jumping is nothing but desperate fantasy. This is an uninhibited play about inhibitions. Matt's wit and honesty make him a thor-

oughly positive character, and Daniels and Ruth Lass create a convincing office relationship. Doubts about the play surface in those areas where Fraser explores the serious follies of his politician, Martin. Here is a man who was a virgin till 25, and is now so keen to act as substitute dad to homeless waifs that he supports the soft drug habit of one and the fecklessness of another. Almost every scene where Gelder appears with young Rex (a flushed Daniel Roberts) or with the ruffier Yves (Nathan Willcocks) ends with him digging into his pocket for more dollars.

Matt's openness is so placed as to contrast with Martin's complicated burden of anger, longing and grievous mistakes. The rage that can be felt by the Positive (as distinct from the simply positive) for those who are uninvited steals in upon us during the play's later scenes, and Matt's own dangerous "mistake" follows logically. But while the air of withholding plans and feelings suits the character as given, the sources of his compulsions remain out of reach.

Marianne Elliott's direction seems to be acknowledging this by closing with the five characters as far apart as possible on this open stage. At other times the openness works against audibility in a play of fast Canadian talk and cultural predilects. But if the play's centre retreats from us the outer reaches do capture the quality of discontented lifestyles that is Fraser's particular skill.

JEREMY KINGSTON

"Intelligent, funny, moving... Beatty's finest work to date... a return to real film-making, cinema of quality and substance."

Phil Jupitus - UNCUT

"Truly a terrific film."

NEON

"Warren Beatty back on blistering form."

RME

"Lovely, savage stuff..."

Barry Norman - THE RADIO TIMES

"Extraordinary."

TIME OUT

3 GOLDEN GLOBE 2 NOMINATIONS

including:
BEST PICTURE (Nominated or Won)
BEST ACTOR (Nominated or Won - Warren Beatty)
BEST SCREENPLAY (Warren Beatty and Jeremy Pikser)

A WARREN BEATTY FILM
BULWORTH WARREN BEATTY
HALLE BERRY

CASTING BY JANE ROBERTS
PRODUCTION DESIGNER JAMES HAMILTON
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JAMES HAMILTON AND JANE ROBERTS
PRODUCED BY JAMES HAMILTON AND JANE ROBERTS
SCREENPLAY BY JANE ROBERTS
DIRECTED BY WARREN BEATTY

STARTS TODAY AT SELECTED CINEMAS

SCOTT'S 0800 192192

THE BEST FILMS OF THE DECADE
BRILLIANT

TWO SISTERS, TWO LIVES, ONE LOVE
HILARY and JACKIE

Starts Today In The West End
And February 12 Nationwide

POP ALBUMS

Snowpony impress

ARTS

TOMORROW

Critic's choice in Metro

Happy birthday suit to youth

Crazy name, crazy guys: Canada's Barenaked Ladies have put humour in the charts. Paul Sexton reports

Success in showbusiness has many occupational hazards, but they do not usually include being assaulted with packaged food. Such, though, is the lot of Barenaked Ladies, the Canadian band who put a decade of hard labour into their new-found North American stardom — their album, *Stunt*, has gone triple platinum in America — and who will be back on an English stage next week, dodging boxes of macaroni cheese.

To describe a Ladies concert as lively is like calling Bart Simpson playful, and one of the joys of their belated breakthrough — is that it proves that a sense of humour and creative excellence need not be oil and water in the rock world. As they proved on previous UK visits in less celebrated times, the Barenaked boys will charm total strangers with shows of manic, Goin' South jollity and damn good tunes. Plus that unusual concert tradition: where the Beatles got jelly beans and Jim Jones gets knickers, this five-piece has tins of apple sauce and boxes of macaroni cheese lobbed at it.

"We're trying to curb that a little bit," says co-writer and singer Ed Robertson. "Have they gone all serious and arty, then? No, stresses bassist Jim Creeggan, they would, just rather not have to play in hard hats. 'Maybe one idiot in the audience would put a little more steam behind the throw and hit somebody. You get hit by food, it sucks.' Robertson adds, philosophically: "But you know that going into this, we're at Madison Square Garden in New York, Barenaked Ladies performed at an all-star concert staged by the city's top-rated pop radio station, Z100. Lesser men would have been daunted by an audience of screaming, dreamy 16-year-olds awaiting the appearance of pin-ups such as N Sync and 98 Degrees, but the band made

them all rock and roar, especially with a gloriously absurd closing medley that stapled together songs like *Gettin' Jiggy Wit It*, *My Heart Will Go On* and *Bittersweet Symphony*. But, much as one smiles at their compositions such as *Be My Yoko Ono* and *If I Had \$1,000,000*, it would be misleading to file the Ladies in the novelty section. As they underline again on *Stunt* with songs such as *Alcohol* and *When You Dream*, they can do shade as well as light. "Our live shows are off the wall and fun," says Robertson, "but especially with the new record, people get a lot clearer picture of what the band's about musically. There's still fun on the record, but it's not as overt as it's been in the past."

"I don't care when people use the word 'zany' about us because sometimes we are ridiculous, but when it's used to detract from what the band does musically, then I have a problem with it, because for me those are two very separate things. People say 'You should do stand-up, and we always say no. It's just that you don't expect to see a band that makes you laugh, but if you came along expecting a comedy night, you'd be very disappointed.'"

"I like to think our music is like an honest conversation. If you're sitting with a friend over the course of an evening, you don't just make jokes all night and you don't talk serious all night." Robertson's co-writer and singer, Steven Page, recalling some "comic" "epics" — "On those earlier UK gigs, senses a cultural kinship between Brits and Canadians. "There's a certain fact of Canadians that clings for dear life to England," he says. "It's kind of the place that keeps us not being American. If we didn't have a fish and chip shop on the corner, or we weren't rushing home to see *Coronation*



After a decade of hard slog, Barenaked Ladies have finally cracked it big time in America. The drawback to this, though, is that they get pelted with macaroni cheese more often

Street, we would be American." Their ear for the absurdities of language has had audiences in this country in stitches as they played with newfound English phrases like toddlers in an Early Learning Centre. I remember them once constructing an entire song about Jeffie Gakes, and Page says they still get requests for it. "Whatever word happens to strike us, we play with," says drummer Tyler Stewart. "We talked about baps a lot. I remember. And slapper is one of our favourite words. We met these girls from Liverpool when we were there in 1996. I swear they were the original Spice Girls. They were so funny, drink you under the table, witty Scouse birds. They used this word slapper all the time."

"I think the biggest thing Canadians have in common with British people is that we both get embarrassed," says Page. "Americans just don't get embarrassed." Page recalls the sensation of finding the acclaim for their shows in this country never translated into record sales, least of all in the Britpop era. "A song like *Brian Wilson* wasn't going to get with *Song 2* by Blur," he says. "We felt really on the verge of something in the UK, but each record never quite hit it, and by the time the third record, *Born On A Fire*

Ship, came out, the ball was just dropped. We thought 'This is terrible, our chance has gone.' Their recent success is made more poignant by the current absence of keyboard player Kevin Hearn, now making a good recovery from leukaemia. "Now that he's recuperating, it's doubly frustrating for him that he can't be out here on tour with us," says Robertson. "It's a really hard thing when you feel like your career is at its pinnacle, but you're not celebrating it together."

The belated triumph of Barenaked Ladies is a tale of victory against the odds by a band that will not sit comfortably in any of the industry pigeonholes. "I like diversity in music, but it's hard to market," says Robertson. "There's so much music these days, everybody wants to be able to say what they're a cross between, like 'It's somewhere between U2 and Soul Coughing'. We are Herman's Hermits meets Henson's Muppets."

Cutting edge

MICHEL PORTAL
Dookings
(Label Bleu LBLC
6604 HM 83)

THE multi-instrumentalist Michel Portal has always scorned genre boundaries, especially those between jazz and avant-garde classical music. A recent duo album with accordion player Richard Galliano, for instance, interspersed pieces by Astor Piazzolla and Hermeto Pascoal with Balkan folk; a 1995 album, *Cinemas*, embraced everything from orchestral tango to Maghrebi rhythms.

Here, with his front-line instruments augmented by Marcus Stockhausen's agile trumpet and propelled by the nervy but fluent piano of Bojan Zulfikarpasic, Portal casts his musical net as widely as ever. There are vigorously scuffling clarinet improvisations over Bruno Chevillon's live bass and Joey Baron's scurrying drums, intricate ensemble pieces redolent of North Africa, and a plangent waltz though Carla Bley's *Ida Lupino*, featuring Steve Swallow on singing electric bass. Another rich, texturally adventurous album from one of Europe's most imaginative musicians.

JAZZ ALBUMS

JOHN CRITCHINSON QUARTET
Excuse Me, Do I Know You?
(Jazz House JHCD056)
HE WAS Ronnie Scott's pianist from 1979 until the latter's death in 1996, so John Critchinson's tribute to Scott is thoroughly imbued with respect for the late saxophonist's personal tastes, both musical and extra-musical.

Thus a vigorously interactive quartet, completed by saxophonist Pat Crumly, bassist Leon Clayton and drummer Mark Fletcher, visit some of Scott's playing favourites — *This Heart of Mine*, *Seven Steps to Heaven* — as well as performing originals in his favoured jazz styles, one of which — the title-track — memorialises one of Scott's more famous catchphrases.

With vocal appearances from Georgie Fame and Flora Purim, this album not only focuses the sadness caused by the death of one of jazz's most prominent musicians, but also honours the playing of some of its finest living practitioners.

CHRIS PARKER

Pale horse of a different colour

NEW POP ALBUMS: It's being doomy and gloomy that makes Snowpony so cheering, says David Sinclair

SNOWPONY
The Slow-Motion World of Snowpony
(Radioactive
RADRD 1R28 £15.99)
AS ANY half-decent alternative rock band led by a woman might expect these days, Snowpony have been optimistically compared with Garbage and PJ Harvey. Singer and songwriter Katharine Gifford certainly has a dark, 1990s twist to her lyrics: "I used to dream in black and white, but now I dream in red," she sings in the macabre *3 can Keep a Secret* (if 2 are Dead).

But the trio comprising former members of Stereolab, My Bloody Valentine and Moonshake — a sort of super-group of gloom — lacks the full-on approach of Garbage, and Gifford's glacial vocal delivery has little in common with Harvey's voodoo wail. Instead, they combine some fairly conventional, chorus-free riffs with startling bursts of almost-discordant horn parts that are inserted into the arrangements of numbers such as *Bad Sister* and *Snow White* like a poker thrust into the embers of a fire.

Neat little shards of feedback stab into the fabric of *Easy Way Down* and a rogue star threads an erratic course through the dancey groove of *Titanic*, while a church bell tolls in the back of the mix.

"Why do I get these headaches?" Gifford sings in *St Lucy's Gate*, a woozy psychedelic interlude that sounds like a bad dream set to music. The question may be rhetorical, but rarely has the product of a sore head sounded this smart and imaginative.

CASSIUS
1999
(Virgin 7243 8 46701 £15.99)
FATBOY SLIM may be at No 1 this week, but the post-Christmas album chart is not otherwise overrun with dance. Let alone French dance acts. However, like Air and Daft Punk, who were both successfully launched here at this



If a migraine could sing, it would sound like Snowpony. Now there's an enticing prospect

time of year in 1998 and 1997 respectively, the Parisian duo Cassius are about to make a mainstream splash with their cunningly titled debut, 1999.

Philippe Zdar and Hubert "Boombass" Blanc-Francart are, at 31, veterans of the

French dance scene. They have produced three albums for rap star MC Solaar, made their own hip hop records as La Funk Mob and remixed the biggest hits of both Daft Punk (*Around the World*) and Air (*Sexy Boy*). The pair call their

music "urban electro funk", and their trick is to combine house beats with the sexier syn-copations invented by James Brown, producing an accessible brand of dancefloor funk adroitly rooted for the rave generation.

They hit their stride midway through this album with *Master Everyday*, *Nulife* and *Somebody*, a string of ingenious, minimalist grooves that have a simultaneously galvanising and hypnotic effect. An-

tique synthesiser sounds and feisty vocal chants pick out the melody line of *Cassius Quintessence*, while the radio edit of their current hit single *Cassius 99*, with its Donna Summer sample, recalls the questionable thrill of 1970s disco, a style that has now been rehabilitated in a way that few people who actually lived through that era would previously have believed possible.

FOXY BROWN
Chyna Doll
(Def Jam/Mercury
558 933 £15.99)

OPENING with the (presumably simulated) sound of Foxy Brown being born, *Chyna Doll* is a broadly autobiographical album which spares the listener little in the way of detail. The rapper from Brooklyn is cursing, threatening and demanding respect almost before her feet have hit the ground, the only wrinkle in the plot being that the voice is that of a woman and not a man.

A succession of heavyweight stars, including the likes of Jay-Z, DMX and Memphis Bleek, are on hand to complement her vocal assets at strategic points throughout the album and she achieves a certain rough chemistry with her various partners on tracks such as *Bonnie & Clyde Part II* and *Can You Feel Me Baby*. But in the end it's all much too frightening to be sensual.

ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK
The Dance Album
(The Hit Label
AHLCD61 £15.99)

IF TOM JONES can become the acme of middle-aged cool (admittedly a few years ago now) and Cher can reinvent herself as a disco diva, then why not revive and recast Engelbert Humperdinck as the king of the 1990s dance-floor?

Well, there are 11 good reasons why not on *The Dance Album*, a collection of Humperdinck "favourites" including

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- | | | | |
|----|------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | (2) | You've Come a Long Way, Baby | Fatboy Slim (Sire) |
| 2 | (1) | Two Rivers Expecting You | Robbie Williams (Chrysalis) |
| 3 | (3) | Ladies & Gentlemen - The Best of | George Michael (Epic) |
| 4 | (4) | Where We Belong | Boyzone (Polygram) |
| 5 | (5) | Talk on Corners | Corn (Arista) |
| 6 | (6) | Shap Dev | Shap Dev (Lol) |
| 7 | (7) | Bay of Light | Madonna (Maverick) |
| 8 | (8) | Forgotten, Not Forgotten | Corn (Arista) |
| 9 | (9) | The Best of 1980-1990 | U2 (Island) |
| 10 | (10) | The Best of | M People (M People) |

COPYRIGHT CMC

Figure in brackets indicates last week's position

CDs reviewed in The Times can be ordered from The Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

ultimateswedish experience

THE CARDIGANS
GRAN TURISMO

The Cardigans follow their world-beating album *First Band On The Moon* with *Gran Turismo*. More mature than its predecessor, this album features uplifting and melancholic, thoughtful and energetic pop music. Including the hit *My Favourite Game* and the new single *Erase/Rewind*, *Gran Turismo* grabs you first time and won't let go.

£12.99

A change of culture

A reconstructed IPC aims for a bold new future, says Raymond Snoddy

On a wall of Mike Matthews' 17th-floor office overlooking the Thames there are framed copies of ancient publications such as the *Strand Magazine* and *Tibbits*, which were owned by IPC and its predecessors.

In a new corporate brochure produced by IPC, still the largest consumer magazine company in the UK, the titles are colour-matched according to age. Nine magazines have purple spots against them, indicating that they were launched before 1999, ranging from *Country Life*, *The Field* and *Shooting Times* to *Country Magazine* to *Amateur Photographer*, *Gardening*, and *Cycling Weekly*.

"I am a custodian really, just passing through," says 51-year-old Matthews, who has worked for IPC for the past 28 years.

Propped against another wall is a board that is covered in handwritten paper stickers. It represents the magazine company's ambitions for the future — which include joining the FTSE 100 and launching a magazine every year that matches the triumph of *Loaded*, IPC's hugely successful title for young men.

Matthews does not know whether such things are possible but he is going to try over the next ten years. The "ambitions" board is just one aspect to a corporate makeover announced this month to make IPC more "fleet of foot" following last year's £860 million buyout from Reed Elsevier, the Anglo-Dutch information group.

During the last years of Reed ownership IPC felt like an unloved stepchild. Reed made no secret that

it wanted to specialise in professional and business information — and that it was only a matter of time before IPC would be sold.

The issue came to a head when Matthews was refused permission to bid for *Telestar*, the French TV listings magazine — which is now owned by Emap, IPC's great rival in the magazine market.

Matthews, who was also unable to get the marketing budgets he thought he needed, saw it as the last straw and warned Reed that he planned to retire this year. He believes the potential loss of its chief executive, at the least, "crystallised" the decision to sell.

"I would have ended up presiding over the rise of IPC and its decline, and I wasn't prepared to manage decline," he says. Now Matthews, with the non-executive chairman David Arctus, who worked at Emap for many

years, has drawn up his own plan for restructuring the company, which owns some of the UK's best-known magazines, including *Woman* and *Marie Claire* (in a joint venture), *Ideal Home* and *TV Times*.

"We have been a bit too business-orientated," says Matthews, "and a bit too control-freakish. We need to relax and to let a bit more creativity through. We are no longer constrained by Reed Elsevier. We can rewrite our culture."

Matthews entered the magazine industry as a junior in the copy department of George Newnes, later to become part of IPC Magazines. He had no qualifications other than what he calls "a sense of destiny" — a belief that he would not turn out to be average. The man



Old hand, new ideas: Mike Matthews, the chief executive of IPC, believes in greater editorial autonomy

who will be a multimillionaire when IPC floats on the Stock Exchange in two or three years was brought up in difficult circumstances in Sevenoaks, Kent, after his father, a motor mechanic, left when Matthews was eight. He still remembers the humiliation of standing up among classmates to get free school dinner tickets.

The IPC reconstruction, which will give its five divisions greater autonomy, has its darker side. About 200 jobs will go, many of them Matthews' senior colleagues. The first wave of eight have just departed. To achieve a flatter management structure, the role of editor-in-chief is going and there will be fewer publishers. In future, editors will report to their managing directors. The reality is that Iris Burton, the Editor-in-Chief of half the women's titles and a former Edi-

tor of both *Woman's Realm* and *Woman's Weekly*, is leaving — as is David Durman, the Editor-in-Chief of the other half. Another casualty is Andrew Taylor, the publisher of specific women's interest titles. "Mike is bleeding on this. These are people he has worked with and probably employed," says Terry Mansfield, the managing director of the rival National Magazine Company. The closure of *Options*, though not part of the restructuring, could cost another 17 jobs.

Matthews denies that IPC, backed by the venture capital group Civen, overpaid for the company, thus leading to the redundancies.

He accepts that IPC's circulation figures for the first half of last year were bad. The figures for the second half, out next month, will, he says, show that IPC is on the way back. Matthews believes he will

have succeeded in a year IPC is more dynamic and taking advantage of "the huge number of opportunities in the media market". These range from masthead publishing — TV shows linked to magazine titles — to magazine-related exhibitions and electronic publishing.

He makes no secret of the fact that he is looking for major acquisitions in the UK and would be interested in moving into business-to-business, or trade publishing.

Wouldn't it be lovely, he muses, if he was able to buy Reed Business Publishing or New Scientist, magazines that Reed Elsevier held on to. He is not interested in reconstructing another part of IPC history — buying *The Mirror*, now the subject of takeover attempts. That would be too extraordinary an idea even for the pieces of paper on Matthews' strategic-intent board.

Mandi vacates Cosmo chair

MANDI NORWOOD, the Editor of National Magazines's *Cosmopolitan*, has been promoted to Editor-in-Chief after turning down an offer from rivals IPC to edit *Marie Claire*. Press Gazette says that she will still oversee the day to day running of *Cosmo* but will also work on new titles. She will be replaced as Editor of *Cosmo* among names being touted are Dawn Bebe, the former Editor of *New Woman*, Fiona McIntosh of *Elle* and Emma Soames, the Editor of the *Telegraph Magazine*.

only two awards for ITV, both won by the same programme — *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?* which was named as the best new programme and the best light entertainment.

■ **CHANGING FACES**, who's going where: Charles Courrier, James Sykes, Martin Thomas and Lea Gregory to head Media Edge Europe. Young & Rubicam's revamped European operation. All from other parts of Y & R (Media Week).

■ **Greg Gurner** to be a managing partner at Optimedia, from CIA Mediamarket (Campaign).

■ **Dave Amer**, from Turner Entertainment, to be sales and marketing director for Beeb, the BBC's commercial internet operation (Marketing).

■ **Chris Wermann** to be head of PR and Miles Russell public affairs manager for Direct Line.

■ **Wermann** from Financial Dynamics, Russell from Burton-Marsteller; Roger Lowry moving to Burton-Marsteller after six years with the Liberal Democrats (PR Week).

■ **Patrick Weaver** quits as deputy city editor of *The Sunday Telegraph* (Press Gazette).

■ **MOVING HOUSE**: who's getting the business: Nationwide Building Society reviewing its £8 million account at present with Leagas Delaney Delaney Fletcher Bostell wins £2 million Harmony haircare account; BMP DDB to create a £1 million press campaign for Bentley cars, now owned by Volkswagen (Campaign).

■ **The publisher Mills & Boon** hires Band and Brown to handle its PR: the recruitment agency Office Angels engages the Red Consultancy to promote the brand (PR Week).

■ **THE BBC** was the biggest winner at this week's annual production awards sponsored by Broadcast, winning six awards outright and sharing one. The docudrama *Hotel Beat The Cruise* and *Airline* as the best popular factual programme. There were

■ **BARCLAYS** is reviewing the £50-million advertising account for its retail financial services, according to *Marketing Week*. At present the account is handled by J Walter Thompson, but other agencies will be invited to pitch. There has been upheaval at Barclays since the resignation last year of its chief executive, Martin Taylor, and the magazine says the review could lead to a new corporate identity and even a change of name.

■ **MICHAEL LEAPMAN**

TO ADVERTISE CALL
0171 481 4481

MEDIA & MARKETING

FAX:
0171 782 7826

sales-focused SUCCESS-HUNGRY?

REALISTIC EARNINGS
£100K+
SOFTWARE
SALES

OPPORTUNITIES
THROUGHOUT
THE UK



For further details about these opportunities UK-wide, please send your full cv, salary details and a covering letter to Paul Wilkins, Vice President - Recruiting & Development, Parametric Technology (UK) Limited, Technology House, 1 Fleetham Park, Barley Way, Woking, Surrey, GU24 0JL. Tel: 01252 877 044 Fax: 01252 810 722, E-mail: paul.wilkins@ptc.com

With over \$1 billion of revenue and more than 20,000 customers, Parametric Technology is one of the world's premier software companies. The huge success of ProEngineer, our world-leading MCAD product, has created a powerful springboard for further dramatic growth and we continue to develop the product to extend our lead over our competitors.

Working from our network of regional offices, we have opportunities for sales-focused and success-hungry professionals to join our established ProEngineer salesforce, targeting and closing business within an educated customer and prospect base.

With a degree, professional sales training and at least 5 years' progressively more successful track record in sales, you must have the presence and personal credibility to sell a complex product to senior decision-makers. This expertise will have been gained in selling business-to-business software or high-value capital equipment or systems ideally to manufacturing industries. Comprehensive product and sales training, outstanding customer support and a world-beating product in a growth market all mean opportunity.

Backed up by an exceptional rewards package and a philosophy of internal promotion, personal and professional development is assured in an environment where you will be challenged, recognised, appreciated and rewarded with fast progress.

Market Research Executives

Fast growing business to business market research company seeks analysts/researchers at all levels for work primarily within the following sectors:

Chemicals/Plastics
Electrical Products
Information Technology
Healthcare Products
Paper & Packaging

Graduate level, highly motivated applicants are required for permanent positions ranging from research assistants, through senior research executives to director level. Fluency in other European languages an advantage.

Please write enclosing CV to:

Don Wilkey
Business Research Group Ltd
109 Uxbridge Road
Ealing, London W5 5TL

Written applications only.

BRG

Business Research
Group Limited

PUBLIC RELATIONS EXECUTIVE REQUIRED

We are looking for a bright, enthusiastic public relations executive with excellent communications skills and a flair for creative writing. Will also have experience in compiling reports and undertaking market research. Experience of working in property research or a knowledge of the property development business would be an advantage.

Ideally, you will be a graduate who can demonstrate a proven ability to think laterally and looking for your second appointment.

Please send CV and salary requirement to Maggie Fletcher by fax 0181 770 9710 or E-mail: maggiefletcher@tts-pr.co.uk

ADVERTISING AGENCY

• In Baker Street £18,000

Use your typing speed of 30 wpm to type letters and postcards. Must be a 2nd year A-level or GCSE level. Work with exciting clients. Adverts (Rec Com) 0171 722 2298

Office Assistant

• In Soho

Young, dynamic person for a varied role in a fast growing company. Must be a 2nd year A-level or GCSE level. Work with exciting clients. Adverts (Rec Com) 0171 722 2298

GRADUATE TO THE CITY

We are seeking applications for graduates with a degree in any subject, preferably in business, to join our team of graduates in the City. The role involves working in a fast-paced environment, dealing with a high volume of enquiries and providing excellent customer service. The successful candidate will receive a competitive salary and benefits package. Please send your CV to: MARTIN LOCKYER, 6th Floor, International Financial Centre, 25 Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1BN.

SPORTS HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

£40k OTE (Basic + Commission)
Leading, established Sports Hospitality Company require successful sales achievers to market and close the highest quality corporate packages at major sporting events. Our Blue Chip clientele demand the very best standard of facilities & service. If you're serious about building a lucrative sales career and your sales expertise can match our product, you will be guaranteed an exceptional package. Please telephone Richard Kay on 0171 352 7727.

We have over 90,000 representatives visiting our 40 million customers worldwide. Having reached Britain we are now seeking additional recruits to join our independent.

TEAM OF SALES REPRESENTATIVES

If you are self-motivated and ambitious, able to work on your own initiative, have excellent communication and presentation skills contact us immediately. Previous sales experience beneficial but not necessary. We will provide full training. Job Zepher sales force and have an exciting and rewarding challenge. For an application form write or phone:

Zepher International (UK) Ltd.
Sales Department Stamford
House, 2/4 Chiswick High Road,
London W4 1TH.
Tel: 0181 847 3617.

SALES NEGOTIATOR

Requires excellent negotiating skills, energy, drive, ambition, self-motivation and discipline. Ideal candidate 20-25, with top sales record and references. Hands on approach with potential to take the role of Sales Director. Salary negotiable.

SALES JUNIOR

To work in busy office. Must be motivated, hardworking and energetic. Working as part of sales team at an. Salary basic + commission.

Send CV for the attention of Paul Wilkins at account manager, Storage Equipment Ltd, Gos Road, St Albans, Herts. AL1 1AA.

How to Make £25,000 A Year - With Your Beats Computer

This free information kit from the Morris College of Journalism shows you exactly how! Call Free: 0800 371 500

How to Make £30,000 p.a. Freelance Writing

This free Newsletter from the Morris College of Journalism shows you exactly how. Obtain your free copy now! Call Free: 0800 371 500

INTERVIEWER/SALES

Flexible hours

Ten introduction agency

DRAWING DOWN THE MOON

Central London

Having proved your abilities this far you are now ready to work as part of a friendly service oriented team interviewing and recruiting members.

Quartet Books Ltd

REQUIRES A PUBLICIST

Independent publisher seeks an ambitious and enthusiastic publicist to handle press and publicity for a growing list of literary fiction and eclectic non-fiction. Love of books essential, warmth of personality as important as experience. PLEASE APPLY IN WRITING TO JEREMY BEALE, QUARTET BOOKS, 27 GODFREY STREET, LONDON W1P 2LD

Growth at Faron Sutaria continues apace creating some remarkable opportunities in one of London's most successful Estate Agencies.

We are seeking Brokers for our sales and lettings departments. You will need to be between 22 and 40 years of age. Experience of Estate Agency is not essential because we prefer to train our staff from day one.

Whereas this is one of the most lucrative London agencies to work for, you should accept that we set very high standards of achievements and ours is an exceptionally hard working Company. You will therefore need to be 100% committed to your career and also to quickly learn and excel in organisation, where there is no shortage of astute guidance and opportunity for those who are committed and have the talent.

Annual income for our sales staff (salary, commission and bonuses) ranged last year from £20,000 - £35,000 p.a. A company car and private medical health insurance are added benefits.

Please forward a detailed C.V. with handwritten letter of application setting out clearly your reasons for making this application or call 0171 229 9281 for an information Pack. Ref. FF/S/L, FARON SUTARIA, 89, NOTTING HILL GATE, LONDON W11 3JZ.

Journalist/Editor

Toplum Postasi is looking for an experienced Journalist/Editor who will be responsible for organising and editing the newspaper.

Toplum Postasi is the leading Turkish/English weekly newspaper for London published for the needs of the Turkish speaking communities in Britain. It covers all news and activities relating to this part of the community. It also covers news from Cyprus and Turkey.

The applicant is required to:

- Have minimum 5 years experience of working as a newspaper/magazine editor.
- Have excellent interpersonal skills and be comfortable liaising with people at all levels.
- Have very good command of Turkish language, excellent writing and editorial skills and the ability to use it effectively.

Being able to communicate in English would be an advantage.

If you are interested in this post, please send your CV to:

Toplum Postasi, 117 Green Lanes, London N16 9DA.

Salary: £15,000 per annum.

Closing date: 12 February 1999.

ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO: BOX No.

c/o THE TIMES

P.O. BOX 3553, VIRGINIA ST, LONDON, E1 9GA



Amanda Platell, left, was fired from *The Express on Sunday* by Rosie Boycott, Editor-in-Chief, right, after sales dipped below one million — and after running a contentious story on Peter Mandelson

No answer to the P45 question

Boycott has fired Platell from the *Express* but will she herself survive?

After the firing of Amanda Platell this week, *The Express on Sunday* has lost its fifth editor in a row, and the question that has been asked is how much more of a newspaper that only years ago was the undisputed champion of Middle England can endure? If it was an answer we might spare its suffering and put it to sleep.

Platell fell out with Rosie Boycott, Editor-in-Chief of *The Express on Sunday*, when she published a report about a friendship between the former Cabinet Minister Peter Mandelson (a friend and neighbour of Boycott) and a Brazilian student in the UK in which Mandelson was said to be a homosexual.

Truth of the row is difficult to tell but Platell believed that Boycott had sanctioned the story. Boycott believed that she had been misled. What is not in doubt is that on the day of publication Mandelson delivered a handwritten note to Boycott's home, that Lord Lofthouse, the Express proprietor, and Labour life peer, made four calls to the Express news-

desk, and that the story was read to Mandelson, after which substantial cuts were made.

Three weeks later Platell read in *The Spectator* that her job had been offered to Sarah Sands, deputy editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, who had turned it down. Platell won a reprieve, partly because Paper Round pointed out that editors-in-chief ought to accept ultimate responsibility for what appears in their papers, but Platell's loss has undoubtedly been on the block since then.

When the axe fell this week, it chopped not only Platell but also veteran news editor Ian Walker. Yesterday's associate editor, Andrew Pierce, one of the authors of the Mandelson story, also walked the plank. He announced his resignation at a conference, saying he was sick of seeing the Sunday paper rubbish and adding that the high morale on the Sunday paper would now plummet to the level on the daily.

Platell is under an oath of silence but her supporters insist that Mandelson had vowed he

would destroy her career. Boycott's associates insist that Mandelson had nothing to do with the decision, as he has stated through his spokesman. The decision that she should go was made before the Mandelson saga, they say.

Boycott is the boss and these are people who she and Platell are different personalities who were bound to clash. Where Boycott is broadsheet, liberal, cerebral (a judge of this year's Whitbread Prize), Platell is a red-top tabloid veteran, an outgoing Aussie whom critics would say was over-promoted and the wrong editor for Boycott's *Express*.

Platell, moreover, was steering the Sunday paper in a different direction from the daily. Boycott has embarked on one of the most daring or foolhardy acts in tabloid history by surrounding her-



self with broadsheet journalists and transforming the once Tory and ultra-traditional *Express* into a New Age, new Labour newspaper for the new millennium. The P45 question is whether she can win enough new, younger readers without alienating the older readership.

Platell, meanwhile, ignored the evolution of the daily and — as her staff would put it — made the Sunday paper brighter, breezier and more fun to read. What that meant, as Boycott's deputy Chris Blackhurst told them yesterday, was that there was a "gulf in standards" between the daily and Sunday, his polite way of saying that Platell's paper was politically off-message and too vulgar.

Another nail in Platell's coffin was delivered when sales of *The Express on Sunday* slumped last month to a historic low of

973,000. *Express* conspiracy theorists say Boycott, seeking to worsen Platell's plight, cancelled the TV advertising for the Sunday title that would have kept sales above a million — and add that the *Express* TV ad campaign makes no mention of the Sunday.

Blackhurst and Michael Pilgrim now take the helm. Both worked with Boycott on *The Independent* and will need all the help they can get. *The Express on Sunday* has a staff of only 26 — compared with nearly 200 on *The Mail on Sunday* — and has suffered continual redundancies.

The case show at critical moments, such as 11pm last Saturday when the runaway foster parents Jeff and Jenny Bramley returned to Britain. Simon Walters, deputy editor, had to find a cash machine so that two remaining subs, due to finish their shift at midnight and catch the last train, could stay to finish the story and get home by cab. He paid the bill from his own pocket.

Sales this month are down 150,000 on a year ago. Within five years average issue readership has fallen from 4.7 million to 2.7 million. Advertising volume is down four per cent but up nearly four per cent for *The MoS*. Meanwhile *The MoS*, launched only in 1982, is selling nearly 2.3 million, up 130,000 on last year.

Seen from Boycott's chair, the logic of firing Platell is impeccable. The Sunday title will now be on-side and on-message. That, however, makes the pressure on her still greater. Since she took the chair last May, sales of *The Express* have fallen by 88,000. If her high-wire act is to succeed, which many doubt, she needs long-term commitment from Hollick and editorial stability.

The late Sir David English used to say that the instinct that made great editors worked for only one newspaper, that what made him a natural Mail Editor would not have worked for *The Sunday Times*. The tragedy for Rosie Boycott may be that a natural Editor of *The Independent on Sunday* (which she was) is not a natural Editor of *The Express*. Can she prove the cynics wrong?

Is Dyke the man to take over from Birt?

The Conservatives are preparing to raise the issue of "cronyism" if, as seems likely, Greg Dyke, the chairman of Pearson Television, emerges as a serious candidate to become the next Director-General of the BBC.

Mr Dyke, a multimillionaire from his days as chief executive of London Weekend Television, is a committed supporter of new Labour and one of a group, many with media connections, who sponsored the office of Tony Blair before the last election.

Peter Ainsworth, the Shadow Minister for Culture, Media and Sport, says that the job of Director-General of the BBC was so important that anyone who held the office should be "seen to be beyond reproach in political terms".

"I would advise the Chairman of the BBC to think very carefully about appointing anyone directly involved in sponsoring Mr Blair's office," says Mr Ainsworth.

The BBC is about to appoint headhunters to find a Director-General to replace Sir John Birt, who plans to leave in April 2000. The aim is to choose a candidate by the summer and to have that person in place by the autumn, to spend some time working in tandem with Sir John. The race is unusually open, with at least five internal and five external candidates.

Mr Dyke is attracting increasing attention because he is by nature an iconoclast with strong programme-making credentials and has a close relationship with Sir Christopher Bland, the BBC Chairman, from their days at LWT.

Dyke has not yet definitely made up his mind to "throw his hat in the ring", but even senior colleagues at Pearson concede privately that they would not stand in his way if the offer were made. The role of Director-General of the BBC is still seen as one of the plum jobs in world broadcasting.

It is unlikely that the Governors of the BBC would automatically rule out Mr Dyke because of his political connections. After all, Sir Christopher is a former Conservative local councillor and former chairman of the Conservative Bow Group. The issue would be whether Mr Dyke would be prepared to renounce his overt political support for new Labour. It is believed that he did not contribute to Labour Party funds while he was a broadcaster at LWT.

Friends say that if Mr Dyke decided to stand for the post, his aim would be to simplify the BBC bureaucracy and to give greater encouragement to programme-makers.

Before joining LWT in 1987, Mr Dyke, who started his career as a local newspaper reporter in West London, was director of programmes at TV-am and editor-in-chief at TV-am, the commercial breakfast station. Both TV-am and TVS lost their licences in the 1991 tenders for new ITV franchises.

RAYMOND SNOOPY

The death of L!ve is on the cards

WHETHER wins the battle for Mirror Group Newspapers, it is thought unlikely that *Live* TV will survive, or that new *Sporting Life* will go ahead. By shutting down *Live* media experts reckon between £3 million and £10 million a year, while the most like purchaser, Chris Oakley, a former director of M.C., has always been sceptical about starting up a new national sports paper.



Harold, gone tomorrow?

He is displaying a touching faith in his power to turn tabloid journalists into broadcasters: Jane Moore, the *Sun* columnist currently being tried out as a co-presenter with Scott Chisholm, moves next week to a new show, *My Favourite Year*, which consists of an interview with a celebrity, interspersed with news clips and music from the year in question. The format was devised by Kelvin's journalist daughter, Kiershen.

■ **FOR THE** first time BBC News has introduced compulsory redundancies among its senior current affairs producers, and up to 17 face the chop. The reason: the television service, which is already winning battles to make daily news more accessi-

ble, has taken its revenge over the boring quality of most specialist weekly current affairs series on law, housing and education that were once so loved by Sir John Birt.

Staff at the television service were able to act because guaranteed funding has been removed by BBC News and nobody else would pick up the tab. Of the roster, only *Black Britain* survives. Instead, the BBC News chief executive, Tony Hall, is setting aside £1 million for special topical programmes, such as the current *Inside the Lords* on BBC2. The inside view is that arrogant BBC News executives took too little notice of their critics, believing that as they were producing public service programming, they would be safe.

The bigger point is a serious one: if the BBC does not produce programmes on social policy issues, then nobody else will either.

■ **QUIET** celebrations are under way at *The Observer*, the newspaper, the only Sunday broadsheet to register a rise in sales in December, has moved back above the psychologically important target of 400,000 this month, touching 430,000 last week. This was despite efforts by the *Independent on Sunday* to spike *The Observer's* revival by cutting its own cover price to 50p.

Roger Alton, the Editor of *The Observer*, says: "We've got some great people here. I just hope to keep it up." He adds:



My biggest challenge is to keep traditional readers while appealing to the new."

The *Independent's* Editor-in-Chief, Simon Kelner, in part of a wider shake-up across both titles, has reacted by sending across his right-hand man, Tristan Davies, to work alongside the *IOS* Editor, Kim Fletcher, the former deputy editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*, on some form of swift redesign.

■ **HE WHO** pays the piper calls the tune? This thought popped into my head at the launch of *Public Purposes* in Broadcasting: Funding the BBC, a grand event at Carlton House Terrace, where eight of Britain's leading economists gave brief resumes of their worthy contributions to the sponsored book.

Funnily enough none of them fundamentally questions the existence of the licence fee, or threatens to keep the BBC Chairman Sir Christopher Bland awake at night. The fees

paid by the BBC for each chapter? Some £5,000 to £10,000.

■ **CAMELOT** is about to renew its agreement with the BBC to screen the National Lottery. I hear that Bazal Productions, which won the competition to supply a new programme starting in six weeks' time, will now run the draw at the beginning. But it ran into trouble over plans to roll the balls one by one to settle bones of contention between people: eg, should a neighbour's overhanging trees be cut down?

But Camelot has been dazzled by the success of *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?* and hopes that the producer, Celador, will come up with an even better look after Bazal's 13-show run ends.

■ **ROWAN ATKINSON** is being wooed to bring back his Blackadder character for the Millennium Experience. But I hear that his production company, Tiger Aspect Productions, is less than thrilled. First, at the leak and, secondly, at the prospect that his hottest property, having conquered Hollywood, should be sidetracked to save the Dome.

Millennium man? Rowan Atkinson as Blackadder

Millennium man? Rowan Atkinson as Blackadder



Millennium man? Rowan Atkinson as Blackadder

THE SUNDAY TIMES

PRESENTS

Valentine's Day

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

tommy
AND
tommy
girl

The Sunday Times offers you the opportunity to place a Valentine's message in the paper on Sunday February 14th 1999. In addition we will send a 50ml bottle of tommygirl (RRP £25) or tommy (RRP £22) together with a note which reads "Look for your message in the Sunday Times on Valentine's Day". The cost is from £35 for a minimum 3 line message and a 50ml fragrance. Please indicate whether the male or female fragrance is required by ticking the relevant box below.

The most romantic message published will win a romantic holiday for two*

WRITE YOUR MESSAGE BELOW - ONE WORD PER BOX		No LINES	PRICE
		1	£35
		2	£35
		3	£35
		4	£42
		5	£48
		6	£54

EACH SUBSEQUENT LINE WILL BE CHARGED AT £5.00 *INCLUDES VAT

YOUR DETAILS		YOUR VALENTINE'S DETAILS	
Name		Name	
Address		Address	
Postcode		Postcode	
Telephone		Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>	

I enclose a cheque/PO for £... made payable to Times Newspapers Limited
Or debit my credit card by £... Card expiry date .../.../... Please send this coupon with remittance to:
Card No ...
Valentines Messages, The Sunday Times, PO Box 484, Virginia Street, London E19 6EL
Fax 0171 782 7798
E-mail: valentines@times.co.uk

CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS 0171 481 4000

*Coupons must be received no later than Tuesday February 9th 1999. We reserve the right to omit an advertisement.

media times

Anatomy of a hoax

C4 has made a programme on the couple who duped it, writes Carol Midgley

If two people had wasted £40,000 of your budget and several weeks of your time playing a spectacularly humiliating practical joke, what would you do? Report them to the police? Devote your life to sending taxis and pizza delivery boys to their front door? Or smile, forgive and say "shucks, it happens?"

Channel 4, with incredible magnanimity, seems to have opted for the last approach. Five months after a couple exposed the channel to ridicule by pretending to be father and daughter for the documentary *Daddy's Girl*, executives have not only kissed and made up with the pair, but made yet another film about them.

Daddy's Girl never saw the light of day. It was withdrawn hours before transmission after the girl's real father happened to see the programme trailer and alerted Channel 4 to the ruse. Excerpts from it, however, have been interviewed into Channel 4's latest offering, *Who's Been Framed?*, which pioneers a hitherto unexplored area of programme-making — the anatomy of the in-house cock-up.

During an hour-long *mez culpa*, Stuart Smith, 29, and Victoria Greetham, 19, explain how they hoodwinked the television crew for more than four months. Smith, who had pretended to be 39 and intensely possessive of his "daughter", says the hoax fulfilled a fantasy. "It felt good to be a middle-class racehorse trainer instead of a plumber's son with a criminal record," he says. "I swapped lives."

Greetham, a law student and aspiring model, displays a naive, insouciant attitude to a prank that could have cost the director, Edmund Coulthard, of Blast films, his career. "Not everything you see on TV is real," she says. "The documentary that was made was real,



The "father" and "daughter" of *Daddy's Girl*, Stuart Smith and Victoria Greetham: "The film-makers could easily have blown my cover," says Smith

it's just that there were some lies involved in it."

The hoax did, however, raise important questions about the future of the genre. Michael Jackson, the chief executive of Channel 4, said the episode was a new public abuse of the trust that once existed between film-makers and their subjects. Directors agree that, from now on, nobody will be taken at face value; subjects will be vetted right down to

their birth certificates, and "good faith" is history.

Others say that such a hoax was waiting to happen. The public's appetite for fame had been dangerously whetted by watching ordinary people become overnight celebrities thanks to the success of docu-soaps such as *Driving School* and *The Cruise*.

But will making a documentary about a documentary, and committing more money

to two subjects who have already shown themselves to be frauds, expose Channel 4 to accusations of excessive navel-gazing? After all, why should we believe the word of two proven liars the second time round?

The commissioning editor, Peter Dale, says: "We are not trying to make this a moral tale. That would seem self-congratulatory. We're trying to look at how the public sees us

now. This is part of the tables turning. The power is shifting. We are no longer like gods commanding the public to do what we want them to do, and this was a good way of exploring this change in attitude.

To some extent people now see broadcasters as a means to an end rather than purveyors of entertainment. They can use us to become famous. If it makes us more vigilant, that is not a bad thing."

The hoax has also fuelled the argument that the docu-soap is now a spent force. Ordinary Joes have been exploited to the point where it has all blown up in television's face.

Smith says he could easily have been found out. "They could have blown my cover. There is a book that lists all the trainers and they could have found out that I didn't exist."

In one scene of *Daddy's Girl*, included in the new programme, Stuart fights with Victoria's "boyfriend" after a night out. The undertone is that he seems to be incestuously obsessed with his daughter, which, in ratings terms, is almost too good to be true.

With the benefit of hindsight it is easy to blame sloppy research or poor judgment, but such a sophisticated con, involving dozens of people,

would probably convince most of us. When the hoax emerged Greetham gave *The Daily Telegraph's* reporter a mobile phone number for her real father to obtain a comment. It turned out to be another ruse — she had actually given them Smith's number and he supplied "outraged" quotes as if he were the real father.

Peter Moore, who commissioned the film for Channel 4, admits that the hoax angered and embarrassed him, but concedes: "Perhaps sometimes we believe the story presented to us because we so want it to be true."

During the programme Smith tells us he and Greetham have split up. He has lost his job at a Huddersfield pub but does not regret the scam: "I get a kick out of this and it keeps me off drugs."

Peter Dale says the film gives an insight into a man so desperate for fame and an escape from the mundanity of life that he went to these lengths. "When you get behind the facade you see quite a troubled man," he says. "He felt he was living out some kind of scheme to show that he would have been an achiever if he had been given another life."

● Cutting Edge: Who's Been Framed? is on February 1 at 9pm.

Welcome to the real-life Corrie St

Maureen Paton reports on Newsnight's new docusoap

The stock of the docu-soap has never been lower. And although a recent BBC *Choice* documentary asked whether ratings-hungry broadcasters had gone a docu-soap too far in depicting, and sometimes distorting, real people's lives, BBC's *Newsnight* has emerged as a surprise player in this field.

As part of the first re-vamp in its 10-year history, the programme has introduced a docu-soap about a run-down, crime-ridden area of Salford in Greater Manchester. The commercial is being voiced by Jeremy Paxman, *Newsnight's* best-known presenter, ensuring an instantly recognised name for a television experiment that will run for two years.

Salford City Council decided it would co-operate with *Newsnight* on the war-and-all docu-soap, *Real Estates*, as the area's image is already so negative that, as the council's public relations

schedule being dictated an extent by the content of *Newsnight*.

"We wanted to track the effect that Government is having on the who community," says Sir Kevill, the Editor of *Newsnight*. "Only by pursuing over the long term will we see whether government policy makes a difference and the length of the programme makes it unique to a news programme. I would hope that it becomes required viewing for politicians. It will certainly save them from having to come a few focus groups."

"One could call this a real-life soap in the sense that you will want to know what happens next. We'll be giving advice about whether to identify minors, for instance. But we aim to do everything as openly as possible."

By the use of inexpensive digital video cameras in natural light, the costs have been absorbed by the

nights annual million budget.

Carol Lay, Salford council's head of communications, says: "Salford's national image is so poor that I decided we've got to lose it. In fact, we've got a lot to gain. I was so impressed by the time they prepared to

vote to the project, which is so different from the way that the media picture it and out of an area."

She also realised that *Newsnight* will, in effect, be monitoring an ambitious regeneration strategy that includes the £125m Lowry Arts Centre, which will open this year.

Despite the risk of stirring scare stories about benefits drones, or worse, Lay believes that *Newsnight's* long-term approach will into context the kind of every trap that keeps a single mother of three, Anita Gaffey, 26, on the dole £105 a week.

She will be featured Thursday's episode of *Real Estates*, which will focus on single mothers. Her move in giving unpaid time to camera is simple: "I want the world to see that people like us don't deserve it. This is how my life may end up — and it scares me."

Jones and Giddy, says, always ring in advance to "give me time put some make-up on". It mainly to be seen how fully the cameras can really reality without heighten the drama.

I would hope that it becomes required viewing for politicians

ARE YOU HELPING TO GIVE BOOKS TO SCHOOLS?



A BIG BOOST IN THE CLASSROOM

We have published more than 25 million tokens so far. If all our readers collected them, taking 250 tokens per book on the average, schools all over the UK could benefit to the tune of 100,000 books. So start collecting tokens today.

JOIN OUR BOOKS BONANZA

Whether you have no children or your children are grown up, still collect tokens and give them to a school in your area which has registered for our Free Books for Schools promotion. They will appreciate your support.

MORE THAN 150 TITLES

The range of quality titles available to schools includes Shakespeare plays, atlases, dictionaries, fiction and non-fiction, wildlife and science books, audio and Braille titles. The books are suitable for children aged between five and 16.

JOIN IN AND COLLECT TOKENS

Depending on the title, each school needs 100, 250 or 500 tokens per book. Tokens will appear every day in *The Times* until March 27. There are four weeks to *The Sunday Times* and there are more on packages of *Weekend* books.

Offer open to schools registered in the UK only. Schools can obtain information and registration forms by calling 0171-461 5089.

SEE THE BACK PAGE OF SECTION ONE FOR TODAY'S TOKEN
CHANGING TIMES

media watch

THE latest national newspaper circulation figures, for July to December 1998, show that the *Financial Times* continues to perform more strongly than the rest of the market — up by 11.6 per cent, or 38,000 copies year on year.

All of the other national broadsheets lost circulation, apart from *The Sunday Times*, which managed to hold fairly steady at 13 million copies per issue.

Sales of *The Daily Telegraph* are slipping back towards the million mark, down by 44,022, million on year, to 1,054,418. *The Times* dropped 40,000 to 752,000.

Sunday Business, which at present has a monthly audit was down 3,054 in December, compared with November, to 47,632 copies.

Only the two Mail titles are matching the FT's progress. *The Daily Mail* gained 112,415 copies. *The Mail on Sunday* was up 92,899.

The Express continues to suffer badly, this time dropping 7 per cent year on year. Its recent TV ad campaign, created by St Luke's (its third agency in a year), is unlikely to reverse the decline. The Express on Sunday is also in the doldrums, down by 113,279 copies. To add to the gloom,

Express Newspapers this week removed the Sunday paper's Editor, Amanda Platell, and dismissed its news editor, Ian Walker, citing poor sales as the reason. The Mirror is the only popular tabloid to report an

increase in its circulation — up by 13,940 to 234 million. However, the Sunday red-top did not fare so well: the *Sunday Mirror* shed 287,510 in sales. The *News of the World*, still the biggest seller, fell by more than 200,000 cop-

ies, and the *Sunday Pict* lost 177,844 copies.

● MediaTel's online edit information and analysis service is accessed via the Internet at <http://www.mediatel.co.uk> (0171-439 7575).

ABC YEAR ON YEAR COMPARISONS				
TITLE	JUL '97	JUL '98	ACTUAL	%
DEC '97	DEC '98	CHANGE	CHANG	
Daily Mail	2,237,949	2,350,364	112,415	5
Daily Star	712,182	646,314	-65,868	-9
Daily Telegraph	1,098,440	1,054,418	-44,022	-4
Express	1,202,291	1,118,700	-83,591	-7
Express On Sunday	1,140,328	1,027,049	-113,279	-9
Financial Times	328,793	366,969	38,176	11
Guardian	403,999	391,919	-12,080	-3
Independent	260,223	221,398	-38,825	-14
Independent On Sunday	287,543	253,907	-33,636	-11
Mail On Sunday	2,219,430	2,312,329	92,899	4
Mirror	2,324,109	2,338,049	13,940	0
News of the World	4,425,708	4,225,599	-200,109	-4
Observer	439,573	398,983	-40,590	-9
Sun	3,779,605	3,675,286	-104,319	-2
Sunday Mirror	2,276,089	1,988,579	-287,510	-12
Sunday People	1,895,121	1,717,277	-177,844	-9
Sunday Telegraph	887,204	829,032	-58,172	-6
Sunday Times	1,343,324	1,349,925	6,601	0
Times	792,151	751,862	-40,289	-5
TOTAL	28,054,062	27,017,959	-1,036,103	-3



The starry-sky logo, a new promotion campaign and updated jingles are part of Mark Byford's drive to give the World Service a global identity, which is instantly recognisable

A 'brand' new World Service

The BBC is giving its overseas output a new global image. But will this rebranding destroy its diversity? Meg Carter reports

The BBC World Service may broadcast to the world — for the time being at least — but is it a global brand? This is the conundrum puzzling BBC managers and fuelling the latest row about proposals for further programme cuts.

The BBC says the service must be more "listener-focused" more commercially competitive and better promoted internationally to survive. But is it a corporation right?

Observers were quick to condemn last weekend's leaks of further programming cuts. Denying the reports, Mark Byford, World Service chief executive, emphasised his defence in a letter to *The Guardian*, swearing the BBC's commitment to long-term efficiency savings and some reorganisation to maintain World Service's position as the world's leading international broadcaster.

Whether this "reorganisation" is well advanced. Managers are already rebranding and positioning the service with several key developments introduced this month.

The is a new logo — a star-

ry night-sky motif — developed by the designers Lambie-Nairn as part of a unified approach to promoting the English-language service and the 43 local-language services that the World Service broadcasts. A promotional campaign is being developed by the advertising agency Leagas Delaney, and a company will be appointed soon to update on-air promotions and jingles.

A branded breakfast-show format, *The World Today*, is being rolled out across the World Service's three regional English-language zones. This means that listeners in America/Europe, Africa and Asia/Pacific will soon hear the same news-show format, although it will be produced and scheduled regionally. Other parts of the English-language output will be similarly reformed.

All of this is an investment to ensure future audiences, BBC managers say. But is it? "The most important thing is programming, not packaging," one longstanding World Service producer laments.

"Any attempt to refocus resources, such as cutting foreign language output, is an attempt to narrow the World Service's output and will dilute the role it plays."

With the World Service directly funded by the Foreign Office, its traditional and unique role in promoting objective news and British values should be sacrosanct, many believe. Yet plans are said to be afoot to cut services attracting low or falling audiences.

John Tusa, the former managing director of the World Service, says: "Just because you're sixth out of eight [in terms of listeners] in the Far East doesn't mean you are not important. Unless you have a total view of how the English service fits with local-language services you cannot draw sensible conclusions. There is some evidence that where both English and local-language services are available, total World Service listening is greater."

On one level, the logic of refocusing the World Service seems sound. Much has changed since it was launched in 1932. Competition between news providers has increased and the BBC has launched several international commercial television services, including BBC Choice and BBC World.

Every broadcaster must work harder to compete for audiences now," says Alan Booth, the controller of marketing and communication for the World Service. "We have to be more responsive to listeners' needs." To achieve this, he co-ordinated a strategic review of the service's image and perceived role.

"We found that there was no clear or consistent understanding of the World Service brand," he says. One reason for this was that the service was referred to and promoted

locally in a variety of ways. Perceptions of the World Service also vary. Many listeners relied on it as an impartial provider of accurate news, others viewed it primarily as an educational tool, while for many more it provided a welcome reminder of home.

"Our brief," says Liz Dunning, the marketing director of Lambie-Nairn, "was to develop a more coherent World Service brand. You build strong global brands by having just one way of saying Coca-Cola is Coca-Cola, or Marlboro is Marlboro." To this end, BBC World Service is being promoted from this month as "the world's reference point" — visually depicted by stars in a night sky.

Sceptics, however, remain unconvinced that this approach is appropriate. "BBC World Service is a global brand already," Tusa says. "That's not to say it is seen in the same way all over the world. In each area where it is received, it means something different to local audiences. But this is a strength, not a weakness. They are looking at the brand in exactly the wrong sort of way."

Critics also question whether this approach can work if investment in programming — particularly the foreign-language output, which 100 million of the World Service's 134 million listeners currently tune in to — is reduced.

Exact details of how funding will be allocated over the next three years are expected in two weeks. But the steps that have already been taken towards unifying, standardising and publicising English-language output provide a grim indication of how the service's emphasis will change.

Film industry cries out for fresh script

A sensible person would not hold their breath waiting for the Government to do much to boost the UK's film and television industry. The most that can be expected in a good year is a modest tax concession.

Even film industry quangos, recycling public money in one way or another, do not have a sparkling record when it comes to backing potential hits. They seem irresistibly attracted to turkeys.

But symbolism and a little loving care can help. Yesterday Brian Wilson, the Trade Minister, set off for America on a trip around the British outposts of film and television.

He will be the first minister from the Department of Trade and Industry to visit the British Film Office in Los Angeles, set up after a recent review of film policy.

Next week he will visit the National Association of Television Program Executives exhibition in New Orleans, the largest television trade fair in the world, which is attended by delegates from more than 90 countries. Seventy-six UK companies will be showing their wares there.

And the BBC is now making progress in the United States with its BBC America channel, while children's programme-makers such as Hit Entertainment and Brit Allcroft are taking their shows around the world. Pearson has also just sold a new science-fiction-cum-X-Files series to the American networks.

The UK's commercial broadcasters, many believe, have been far too timid and insular when it comes to making programmes for world markets, particularly the US. They have been busy fighting parochial battles against each other and the BBC, and are only just beginning to see the international possibilities.



Companies such as Pearson have become thoroughly international through the purchase of programme-makers such as Grundy and All American. But Pearson's great weakness is that it does not own any broadcasters apart from its stake in Channel 5.

The "content is king" cliché may hold true to an extent, but surely content and distribution are better. This is where the Government can help. Modest relaxation in broadcasting and merger rules would allow the creation of weightier British media companies that could tackle world markets, reverse the television and film deficit and prove that the British industry really is first-class, not only in prestige and honours but in sales as well.

Ali doesn't belong in ads

IS ONE OF our heroes safe? First, John Lennon appears in the One 2 One campaign alongside Chris Evans; now comes Muhammad Ali for the Equitable Life. The difference is, of course, that Ali finally agreed to appear in one of the brand's ads. He has been asked, and Lennon had no choice.

There is no doubt that it's a coup to land Ali. His mere appearance demands the viewer's attention — as did Henry Kissinger's presence in a recent *Economist*. Make no mistake, it is stunning to see Ali on the screen — in the past and, more importantly, in the present. Asked by a little boy basketball player what he would be if he weren't a boxer, the fresh-faced Ali of all our yesterdays answers, by way of old footage: "If I was a garbage man, I'd be the greatest garbage man in the world. I'd be the greatest whatever I'd have done."

Cuts to the present and a slower, sadder Ali cruises around in the back of a limo with onlookers standing starstruck in the street. The ad ends with the basketball player trying to punch Ali, but the greaser holds him at arm's length. The ad frame says "Anything's possible when it's an Equitable Life." But by then who's paying attention? I was so dumbstruck by Ali's reduced state that I was immune to the advertiser.

That sets your mind spinning in all directions, none of them towards Equitable Life. It's not hairs-standing-up-the-back-of-your-neck emotional, not quite positive enough to make you empathise with the idea that you can retire idly still be the greatest. It may be because the soundtrack is prosaic, or that the director tries too hard to be clever. By where my head spun was towards Ali. Ali memories and what they evoke about my younger self. I couldn't then take the leap to the Equitable Life. If Muhammad Ali is in a commercial,

Stefano Hatfield

It should be really special, and this just isn't. It may be that our heroes should be allowed to rest in their youthful glory, deep within the recesses of our minds.

So here's a plea to admen everywhere: lay off J.P.R. Williams and Ian Botham; Debbie Harry and David Bowie; Peter O'Toole and Julie Christie. Most of all, never use so much as a frame of Peter Lorimer — unless it's from the early Seventies, of course.

MARKS & SPENCER has never advertised consistently, at least not like its rivals. A £3-million-a-yearish budget is a quarter of that of the likes of C&A and Debenhams, and a tenth in some years of what Sainsbury's and Tesco spend.

M&S never believed it had to. Its ubiquitous presence on the high street, and unwavering commitment to high standards and value-for-money products,



Past glory: the slower, sadder Ali

have defined a different type of marketing strategy.

The former management under Sir Richard Greenbury, could hardly countenance advertising, and certainly not on television. M&S's image had been so unimpeachable for so long that any association with the black art was deemed counter-productive. And in a company where running out of stock is a crime, the danger with advertising is that it can work too well.

Even real positives — the behind-the-scenes role of such designers as Paul Smith, and the great improvements in the quality of ranges such as men's suits — were kept quiet. Still, the occasional campaign for strawberries in summer or a new range of underwear could clear shelves overnight. Ironically, even the three-night flirtation with television at Christmas resulted in record footfall.

The truth is that M&S has always been a buying-led, not marketing-led, company. This autumn the buyers got it wrong. Now the new chief executive, Peter Salisbury, has appointed a 29-year M&S veteran, Peter Benfield, as its first marketing director for UK retail. Benfield's role was planned long before the sales slump and profits warning, but it would be naive not to believe that recent events have highlighted M&S's reactionary approach to marketing. This was relatively harmless when it was unchallenged as Britain's best retailer, particularly in food. But the competition has improved. Nobody can afford to be out-marketed — just look at how Tesco has stolen a march over Sainsbury's.

In 1999 it seems perverse to write about a retailer as sophisticated as M&S having to embrace marketing. Few doubt that, once it does, it will profit hugely and wonder what it was scared of all those years.

Stefano Hatfield is the Editor of Campaign.

DIGITAL ONE

DIGITAL SOUND PROGRAMME SERVICE CONTRACTS

Registration of interest in tendering for channels on the national commercial digital radio multiplex.

Closing date for Registration 12th February 1999

Digital One Limited, which has been awarded the sole licence to operate the commercial national digital radio multiplex, is now inviting expressions of interest from those who want to be included in the selection and contractual process for providers of sound programme services.

There are currently three available digital sound programme service channels identified below. Digital One may consider proposals to provide any of the other audio programmes services outlined in its licence application, although capacity is currently reserved for the existing independent national broadcasters and other proposed service providers identified in that application. Digital One may also consider making available capacity instead for other programme services which would extend listener choice and which are supported by quality resources and research.

- 1 Soft Adult Contemporary.** This channel will be mainly music based, broadly targeted at adults aged 25 to 44 and will operate 24 hours a day in stereo.
- 2 Plays, Books and Comedy Channel.** This channel will be predominantly a speech based service consisting of serialised plays, books and comedy programmes and is proposed to operate in mono for 13 hours a day.
- 3 Club Dance Music Channel.** A music station targeted at adults between 15 and 34, operating throughout the night for 11 hours in stereo.

Applicants should respond in writing by 12th February 1999 but Digital One reserves the right to extend this date or contract with other parties. It is expected that contracts will be offered to successful applicants in March 1999.

Further information about the multiplex, the available channels, target audiences and requirements of service providers is available from:

Quentin Howard, Chief Executive,
Digital One Limited, 7 Swallow Place, Oxford Circus, London W1A 5NT

To be included in the tender process, please contact Quentin Howard in writing, indicating which channel or channels you wish to apply for. Responding to this advertisement does not commit you to proceeding with the tender process.

Further information on the qualifications to be a digital sound programme service provider is available from the Radio Authority.

EDUCATION

EDUCATION

LONDON (SOCIETY)
LONDON (SOCIETY)
BIRMINGHAM (SOCIETY)
CAMBRIDGE (SOCIETY)
BIRMINGHAM (SOCIETY)


Oxford Charter College
Independent, non profit-making
A LEVEL REVISION
COURSES
at St. Hilda's College
1st/12th Year Curriculum and
Modular Syllabus
Tel: (01865) 311517 (24 hrs)
email: oc@stidal.pwp.com
www.tutorlink.co.uk/oxford/oxford.htm

◆ Highly intensive, exam focused
 ◆ A proven track record of success
 We can help you improve your grades,
 whatever your current standard.

D'OVERBROECK'S
 COLLEGE - OXFORD
 Telephone: Oxford (01865) 310000

For further details contact:
The Bursary, Harrow & Roedean Reversion Centres
The Bursary, Harrow School,
Harrow on the Hill, Middlesex HA1 3EP.
Telephone: 0181 426 4638
Fax: 0181 864 7180
E-mail: reversion@harrow-school.org.uk
Discount for early applications
Harrow School is a registered charity no. 310032

Cherwell College's long established Easter Course. Intensive tuition in a demanding yet stimulating and friendly environment
Tel: 01865-242670 Fax: 01865-79176

Shrewsbury is a Registered Charity Dedicated to Education Number: 828415

THE TIMES
EDUCATION

A lesson from church schools

Tony Blair has sent his children to Roman Catholic schools for good reason, argues Tony Mooney

Cherie and Tony Blair had cause for quiet satisfaction when the GCSE league tables were published last month. The London Oratory, the school attended by their two sons Euan and Nicky, was named as the eighth most improved secondary school in England over the past three years.

As a school with 88 per cent of its pupils obtaining five GCSE passes at grade C or above, the Oratory again emphasised the academic advantages of a Roman Catholic education.

Now it has been announced that the Blairs' daughter Kathryn will also attend a Catholic school, in Hammersmith. Yet critics claim that these advantages are not real and that the apparently superior results are the result of covert selection. So how does one find out whether Catholic schools offer a better standard of education than their state counterparts?

Surprisingly, there has been little independent research into the topic in Britain. However, one study in 1990 did analyse the differences in examination performance of secondary schools in the former Inner London Education Authority. It found that after taking background factors into account, "the examination performance of students attending Roman Catholic schools is higher than those of students attending county schools".

Another clue comes from the Chief Inspector of Schools. Since his inspectors have started to name very good and excellent schools, the growing list looks as if it has been obtained from a Vatican education propaganda booklet.

The Americans have been more systematic in their analysis of the value of Catholic schools. Researchers at the University of Michigan followed more than 3,000 students from 184 high schools and found that Catholic schools, despite not having students who were advantaged

culturally, economically or academically, were pushing them harder in mathematics than other types of school. A greater percentage of pupils took high-level maths courses and this was consistent across the ability range, suggesting that Catholic schools are "especially equitable in who completes advanced course work".

A large-scale inquiry into the early-school and post-school records of about 66,000 students in more than 1,000 high schools found that Catholic schools were performing much better on a number of fronts than their state counterparts. This was despite the fact that they had less money and fewer well-paid teachers who taught larger classes of pupils who were mainly from the more difficult areas.

The study found that it was the most disadvantaged students (blacks, Hispanics and those from low socio-economic backgrounds) who were most likely to profit from attending Catholic secondary schools. Pupils with discipline problems were likely to benefit even more from their education than those who were well behaved. This was probably because the Catholic schools contained their discipline problems without resorting to expulsions at the same rate as state schools.

But why are Catholic schools so successful in educating young people? Dr Andrew Morris, the deputy executive secretary of the Diocesan Schools Commission in Birmingham, offered some reasons in the journal *Research Papers in Education*, also drawing on recent doctoral research undertaken at Warwick University.

Dr Morris argues that Catholic schools have an inbuilt advantage because of the coherence and distinctiveness of the community they serve. Parental attitudes, lifestyle, manner of speaking and thinking are all "consonant with the school and there is, therefore, a process of mutual reinforcement". According to Dr Morris, it is

the strength of teacher commitment to schools that makes them such places of academic excellence. Roman Catholic teachers who go out of their way to work in Catholic schools will often see the school as a religious community and their "self-image and level of commitment may be enhanced and a virtuous circle established".

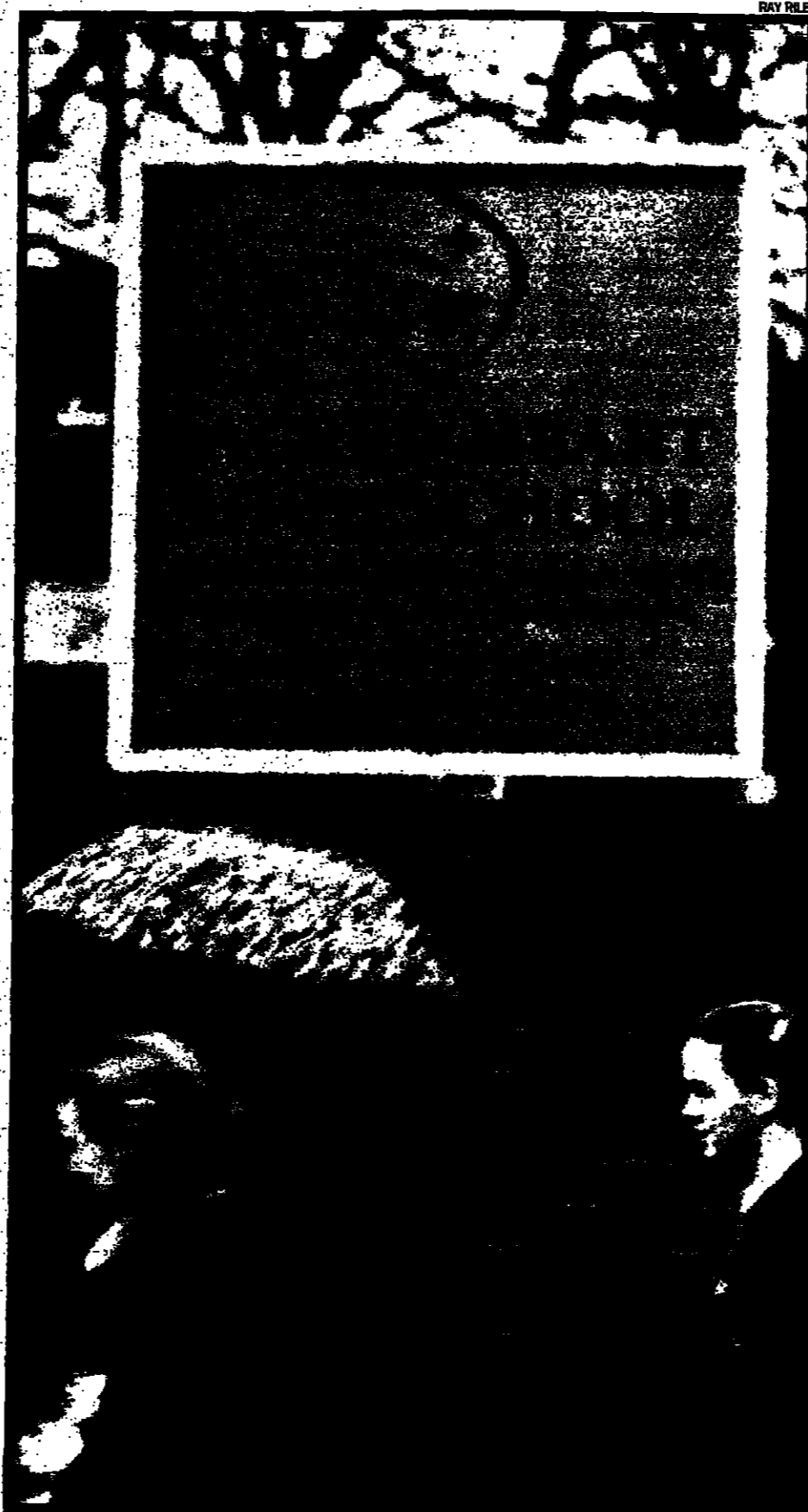
The expectations of its teachers by the Catholic Church also play a part in the creation of teaching excellence. Catholic teachers are expected to give affection, respect and service to their pupils beyond that required by educational law or other caring professions.

Another feature is good discipline. Dr Morris believes that this emanates from several sources. The fact that Catholic schools operate within a hier-

archical and religious culture gives both parents and teachers greater potential for social control. "As such," he adds, "it helps to create a climate of conformity that is likely to assist academic achievement."

Student ease within Catholic schools may also come from the knowledge that in the light of Christian doctrines, "transgression of school norms, if acknowledged and repented, will not necessarily result in being ostracised". This is why questions of discipline and possible exclusion from Catholic schools causes so much angst to those who have to make the decisions.

There is little debate in Britain on why Catholic schools are academically and socially effective. Government-sponsored research would not be wasted — the knowledge acquired might be of value in improving all schools.



Sacred Heart High School in Hammersmith has the approval of the Blairs

First crack in the fees ceiling

The university fee regime which has prompted a group of Oxford students to risk glazing academic careers without the slightest prospect of advancing their cause may seem positively benign a few years from now. Those who cautioned that £1,000 a year would be the thin end of a much larger wedge seem certain to be proved right before long.

Having found that the demand for places has easily withstood the introduction of fees, the leading universities are looking forward to a relaxation of the Government's £1,000 limit. Oxford's business school plans for a degree costing up to £15,000 a year may be at the extreme end of the continuum, but for those competing in the world market, the present fee income is a drop in the ocean.

Rethinking Higher Education, a pamphlet published today by the Institute for Economic Affairs, makes the case for a sharp increase in the student contribution to the cost of higher education. Professor Thomas Lange, director of the Centre for Labour Market Studies at Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen, questions the need for even the current size of the university system, let alone further expansion. He argues that more of the financial burden should fall on the students because they benefit most.

Professor Lange's case rests partly on contentious and dated calculations on the rate of return to individuals and the State from higher education. They suggest that because of the level of public spending, the economic benefit to the UK is less than in countries such as America and France. The advantage to the individual is also less than in most developed nations, but it is higher than the "social return".

More recent attempts at the same exercise have suggested that the gap between private and social benefits has narrowed greatly. With the abolition of grants and the advent of tuition fees, it is safe to assume that there will be little difference in years to come: if graduates' employment prospects are as poor as Professor Lange predicts, the individual benefits may soon be minimal.

As the number of students rises again, Professor Lange believes that higher education will serve mainly as a screening process for employers. The quality of many courses and the calibre of students will be so low and the competition for jobs so fierce that higher education will confer the credentials necessary for success in the race for employment without raising productivity or skills levels. He

is particularly scathing about the likely effect on jobs, citing Cambridge as an example of high levels of qualifications and unemployment. "The mystifying assumption that, by improving Britain's education and training record, somehow unemployment will disappear, is not just debatable; it is misleading at best and at worst it is utter nonsense."

The thesis does not square with the recent forecasts commissioned by the Department for Education and Employment, which saw the potential for another 1.5 million graduate jobs over a ten-year period. But it raises the valid question of what level of fees students will be willing to pay if the financial advantages of higher education become more marginal.

Professor Lange makes a logical case for universities to be set free to charge what the market will bear, leaving students to vote with their feet for a smaller higher education system in which low-quality courses go to the wall. Yet can any government afford to leave access to the top universities entirely at the mercy of the market?

Every proponent of unfettered tuition fees assumes that bursary funds will be available for those who cannot afford to pay thousands of pounds a year for a degree course. Invariably, American universities are quoted as the model to emulate. But the level of donations to American universities by graduates and corporations is out of all proportion to the British system, and is likely to remain so for the foreseeable future. Only by charging even higher fees to those who can afford to pay would our universities be able to build up the funds necessary for "needs-blind" admissions.

The burden on a resentful and electorally crucial middle class would be considerable because the idea that graduates would be the ones to repay the costs of tuition is already a myth in many homes.

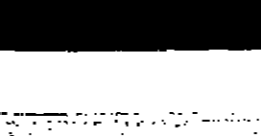
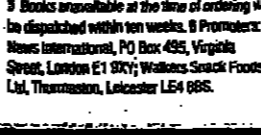
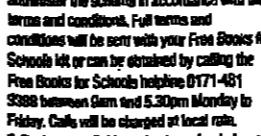
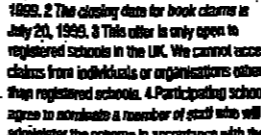
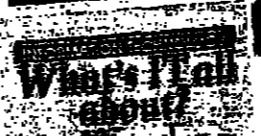
With the means-testing of student loans, the Government has limited still further the availability of affordable finance for undergraduates. Increasingly, parents are the paymasters as university replaces independent education as a drain on the family budget. The £1,000 limit is unlikely to change before the next election, but few would bet on it remaining for long thereafter. The new administration will have a fine balance to strike between popular pressures and the need to preserve the quality of higher education.



John O'Leary

FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN THE TIMES

There's still time for schools to register



It is not too late for your local school to join in our Free Books for Schools promotion.

The Times, with The Sunday Times and Walkers crisps and snacks, offers you the chance to take part in Britain's biggest books giveaway. Its aim is simple: to help schools to provide more books for pupils to expand their imaginations, creativity and curiosity. Anyone and everyone — parents, pupils, teachers, friends and relatives — can join in the scheme, simply by collecting tokens from The Times, The Sunday Times and Walkers snacks.

There are more than 150 titles for schools to choose from, including novels, atlases, picture

books, fiction and non-fiction, wildlife and science, dictionaries and audio and Braille titles. Each book requires either 100, 250 or 500 tokens. The books are suitable for ages five to 16 and are divided into approximate reading abilities from key stage 1 to key stage 4, and P1 to S6 in Scotland.

Schools simply select their free books from a list of approved titles and send off enough tokens for their order. Many of the titles can be ordered for as little as 100 tokens each.

Tokens will appear every day in The Times until March 27 and four tokens are published weekly in The Sunday Times. Tokens are also appearing in The Sun and the News of the World.

THE TIMES SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM

This form must be completed only by school teachers. To get your free books for schools kit to participate in the scheme, complete full details of your school in block capitals below and send form to: Free Books for Schools, Registrations, FREEPOST (LE5 004), Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 7BR. Closing date February 28, 1999.

School name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Our nominated member of staff is _____

Position in school _____

Signed _____

For information purposes only:

1. Please state your local education authority _____

2. Please state the number of pupils at your school _____

Although there is no obligation or cost associated with registering for the Free Books for Schools promotion, please only register for this scheme if you intend to participate.

This enables us to invest as much money as possible in supplying free books to participating schools.

Please note only schools can register. We may wish to use the information provided for marketing purposes.

If you do not wish to receive any further information from News International plc and/or Walkers Snack Foods Limited, please tick here. ☐ Code 01

Acting up at the RSC

Theatre studies are a valuable practical experience, says George Turnbull

Dancing though it may seem, every drama student dreams of performing on the big stage, and last week a company of 34 A-level students took to the boards at the Royal Shakespeare Company's The Other Place theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon. For the first time, students from the School of Performing Arts at Stratford-upon-Avon College were given the opportunity to perform five, 30-minute plays three times a day for two days. The plays, each an original, were created for the practical part of the A level, which accounts for 40 per cent of the final assessment. Despite the creative freedom, stringent exam rules still applied.

The plays were performed as professional productions before an audience, but the lecturers were not allowed to direct. Nevertheless, the calibre of the work was high. Stratford is one of the most sought-after drama colleges in the country and students travel from as far as Birmingham.



A-level drama at the RSC under exam rules. The work counts towards the final assessment

Some alumni, such as the comedian Ben Elton, even moved to the area just to attend the college.

Drama, it seems, is not just for potential Kate Winslets or Joseph Fiennes: it has a positive influence on those entering other "performance" professions. Francesca McVeigh, 18, who is going to study law at University College London, says: "I want to be a barrister. And this course gives us confidence, an ability to communi-

cate, to work as a team and to lead others. Problem-solving comes naturally, too, when you are putting a show together. Acting is important to me... after all, that's what barristers do."

Mark Taylor, the school head, agrees. "Role play is an essential part of learning and the key skills mentioned by Francesca are essential to survival in competitive international companies," he says. "Changes to A levels now be-

ing developed for introduction next year will ensure that their importance will be emphasised, not only within theatre studies but across the whole A-level and GNVQ provision."

The original A level in theatre studies was developed through the college more than 20 years ago and is examined by the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance. Nationally, more than 9,000 students sit the examination.

MOTOR RACING

Toyota opt to go solo in the fast lane

BY KEVIN EASON

THE lure of Formula One is tempting yet another leading car maker into an ambitious programme that could cost more than £250 million just to get on to the grand prix grid.

Toyota, the third-largest motor manufacturer in the world, announced yesterday that it wants to join the Formula One racing circuit, probably in 2003.

The decision stakes up the prospect of a contest between Toyota and Honda, its Japanese rival, which comes to Formula One next year with its own team. Moreover, the wider significance will not escape teams competing at present: they are concerned about whether they can survive a future that looks as if it will be dominated by multinational corporations.

Like Honda, Toyota seems to want to go it alone by making both the engines and chassis — a departure from the conventions of the sport in which motor manufacturers have usually been happy to supply engines to independent teams. Hiroshi Okuda, the Toyota president, has appointed André de Cortanze, who oversees the company's efforts in the Le Mans 24-hour Race, to set up a base in Germany in preparation. Several teams in Formula One would have been hoping for Toyota to choose a partnership. Arrows has no engine supplier, while Jordan uses engines from Mugen-Honda, a deal that might yet be usurped by the full entry of a Honda works team.

Dr Mark Jenkins, senior lecturer at the Cranfield School of Management, said that the entry of Honda and Toyota signals the end of the age of the motor racing entrepreneur, of men such as Sir Frank Williams and Eddie Jordan. He believes that Formula One will be ruled from the boardrooms of big business. Not only will the mavericks of the sport be overwhelmed, but the implications for the British motorsport industry, which is worth £1.5 billion a year to the country and employs 150,000 people, could be far more serious. Formula One faces the possibility of a "brain drain" as companies, such as Toyota and Honda, poach the best talent but base their activities in their home states or convenient locations, such as Germany. Already, Honda

is employing members of the now defunct Tyrrell team, but it has not given any commitment to working from Great Britain.

"Formula One has traditionally been located in the Golden Triangle bordered by Cambridge, Oxford and Reading, known as Motor-sport Valley," Jenkins said. "But if manufacturers want to bring things in-house, they will have no particular commitment to Britain, only to their own needs and costs."

The human face of Formula One also faces extinction. Pioneers, such as Enzo Ferrari, founded a tradition of entrepreneurship that is continued today by men such as Williams, Jordan, Giancarlo Minardi and Peter Sauber.

Jenkins gave warning that the days when Williams could cadge tyres from rivals and conduct business from a telephone box to get his grand prix team on the grid would be replaced by corporations that want the worldwide publicity that is offered by Formula One. In the meantime, Toyota might have to buy out one of the independents to realise its ambitions.

"Formula One has traditionally been dominated by teams set up by entrepreneurs who have developed relatively small companies that can respond very quickly to the demands placed on them by Formula One racing," Jenkins added, "but the signs are that the motor manufacturers want more control. They want to differentiate their products in the marketplace from the competition and, to do that, they want their own teams. Now Toyota is entering, the question is how long before the other manufacturers in Formula One decide they have to do the same?"

Whatever happens, the prospects of another Eddie Jordan emerging to run an independent team in the present, expensive climate of Formula One seem to be remote. When Jordan ended his first season in Formula One in 1991, he was £4.5 million in debt and scoured the circuits for young and cheap drivers. In contrast, the British American Racing team starts this season with a five-year budget of £250 million and employs the second highest-paid driver in the sport, Jacques Villeneuve, on a £10 million salary.



Four years after seeking asylum, Dagne makes her senior women's international debut tomorrow

Refugee runs out of Africa into England team

David Powell on the Ethiopian athlete who made a brave dash for freedom

Dawn was just breaking and snow was beginning to fall out of a grey Durham sky when Birhan Dagne, two of her fellow-Ethiopian athletes and a coach slipped out of the university accommodation to which they had returned after the world cross-country championships the previous day. With just enough English to call a taxi, frightened and not knowing what fate might befall them, they headed for the local railway station while their team managers slept.

By mid-morning, the four had arrived at King's Cross, knowing nobody and nothing of the capital. All they could do was wait for an Ethiopian to pass by and ask for help. A woman, on her way to church, was the first they approached. Was she Ethiopian? "Yes," came the reply. Would she help these desperate runners on the run? "Yes," again. So began the process of seeking asylum in Great Britain as the woman escorted them to the nearest refugee centre.

Almost four years later, Dagne will become tomorrow the first African refugee to run for England. She has been selected for a senior women's team of three to contest the Coca-Cola international cross-country race in Belfast. Ironically, she could make her championship debut for Britain at the world cross-country championships in Belfast this March, competing against team-mates she abandoned in Durham on the last occasion that Britain hosted the event.

This could prove to be a landmark in British distance running. Paula Radcliffe and Jon Brown apart, Britain is anonymous at world-class in a section of athletics that is dominated by Africans. However, behind Dagne, there are Moroccan, Ethiopian and Somali athletes living and competing in Britain and waiting for their chance.

Dagne, 21, seized her moment to escape Ethiopia without warning her parents, although she had been planning it for a month. There was fear among the once-dominant Amharas of persecution by the new coalition government and Dagne claims to have been

severely beaten by a soldier while out training in preparation for Durham. After 46 months without seeing her parents, she said yesterday from her home in Bethnal Green: "I miss my family. I miss my country. I miss everything."

Nevertheless, making the best of it, she has married, learnt to speak English and has been granted asylum. By next year, she expects to have received the citizenship that she would need to compete at the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000.

"It has been very hard, a new life without my family," Dagne said. She has met one of her brothers in Switzerland, but has not seen any of her four other siblings since leaving Ethiopia. "My fami-

'She is a tough, single-minded lady to have achieved what she has in a strange country'

ly were very upset I did not tell anybody, but they are happy now that I run for Great Britain. I tell them I am happy because I am alive. In Ethiopia, maybe somebody would have killed me."

She recalls how, waiting on Durham station, she sat in fear. "We were waiting about an hour, a long, long time, and we were frightened," she said. "We thought we might be taken to prison or maybe killed."

Dagne's switch as an athlete, from Ethiopia to Great Britain, was cleared by the International Amateur Athletic Federation in November. "She must be a tough, single-minded lady to have achieved what she has in a strange country," Rita Brownlie, the England team manager, said.

Training in the British winter has been a shock to Dagne. "I do not like the cold," she said. "In Ethiopia, the sun shines for 12 months. It is a new life here in gloves." Just as it is a new life for her in an England vest.

BOXING: BIRMINGHAM HEAVYWEIGHT CAPITALISES ON KICK-START TO HIS CAREER

Reid gets British title chance

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

PELE REID, the Birmingham heavyweight, who is being tipped to follow in the footsteps of Lennox Lewis, will get the chance to underline his potential when he challenges Jufus Francis, of Peckham, for the British championship at York Hall on January 30.

Francis was to have met Danny Williams, another Londoner, but, when the challenger pulled out with an eye injury, Reid was called in. He was in training to challenge Vitali Klitschko, of Ukraine, for the European title, but Frank Warren, the promoter, convinced him that the British title was more important. "Anyway, Klitschko will be accommodated

after Pele beats Francis," Warren said. Reid came to boxing at the age of 23 by way of kick boxing. His father, who named his first son Santos, wanted his second to take up football, but, despite his christian name, Pele Reid was more impressed by the exploits of Jackie Chan and Bruce Lee than the great Brazilian and took up martial arts at the age of 11. "The kids I ran with in Aston were a hard lot and there was a chance I would get into trouble. That is why I chose another route and I'm proud of what I've achieved so far. I

want to set a good example." By 18, he had lifted the kick boxing world championship, after winning the European crown with a second-round knockout. When he turned to professional boxing, he joined Brendan Ingle, because he liked the style of boxing that the Sheffield trainer had taught Harold Graham and Naseem Hamed. Reid is unbeaten in 13 contests and all his victories have been inside the distance. Eight have ended in the first round and only one has gone beyond three. Ingle thinks Francis will go out in two.

Both Ingle and Warren believe that Reid has the qualities to go all the way. "He is named after a famous man and now I expect him to make a name in his own right," Warren said. "He should be among the top ten in 18 months. Right now, he'd beat any American at his level." Ingle agreed. "If he hits you, he knocks you out," he said. "He is so strong, you have to nail him to the floor to beat him." If Reid lives up to expectations, his quick victories added to a natural charm and positive outlook should make him ideal for marketing when he reaches the top level.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL
SUDWISER LEAGUE: Manchester Stars 120 Worthing Bears 85; Thames Valley Tigers 89 London Towers 81.

BOWLS
HOTTON-ON-SEA, Norfolk: World indoor championships: Singles: 1. C. O'Grady 2. S. O'Grady 3. M. O'Grady 4. S. O'Grady 5. M. O'Grady 6. S. O'Grady 7. M. O'Grady 8. S. O'Grady 9. M. O'Grady 10. S. O'Grady 11. M. O'Grady 12. S. O'Grady 13. M. O'Grady 14. S. O'Grady 15. M. O'Grady 16. S. O'Grady 17. M. O'Grady 18. S. O'Grady 19. M. O'Grady 20. S. O'Grady 21. M. O'Grady 22. S. O'Grady 23. M. O'Grady 24. S. O'Grady 25. M. O'Grady 26. S. O'Grady 27. M. O'Grady 28. S. O'Grady 29. M. O'Grady 30. S. O'Grady 31. M. O'Grady 32. S. O'Grady 33. M. O'Grady 34. S. O'Grady 35. M. O'Grady 36. S. O'Grady 37. M. O'Grady 38. S. O'Grady 39. M. O'Grady 40. S. O'Grady 41. M. O'Grady 42. S. O'Grady 43. M. O'Grady 44. S. O'Grady 45. M. O'Grady 46. S. O'Grady 47. M. O'Grady 48. S. O'Grady 49. M. O'Grady 50. S. O'Grady 51. M. O'Grady 52. S. O'Grady 53. M. O'Grady 54. S. O'Grady 55. M. O'Grady 56. S. O'Grady 57. M. O'Grady 58. S. O'Grady 59. M. O'Grady 60. S. O'Grady 61. M. O'Grady 62. S. O'Grady 63. M. O'Grady 64. S. O'Grady 65. M. O'Grady 66. S. O'Grady 67. M. O'Grady 68. S. O'Grady 69. M. O'Grady 70. S. O'Grady 71. M. O'Grady 72. S. O'Grady 73. M. O'Grady 74. S. O'Grady 75. M. O'Grady 76. S. O'Grady 77. M. O'Grady 78. S. O'Grady 79. M. O'Grady 80. S. O'Grady 81. M. O'Grady 82. S. O'Grady 83. M. O'Grady 84. S. O'Grady 85. M. O'Grady 86. S. O'Grady 87. M. O'Grady 88. S. O'Grady 89. M. O'Grady 90. S. O'Grady 91. M. O'Grady 92. S. O'Grady 93. M. O'Grady 94. S. O'Grady 95. M. O'Grady 96. S. O'Grady 97. M. O'Grady 98. S. O'Grady 99. M. O'Grady 100. S. O'Grady 101. M. O'Grady 102. S. O'Grady 103. M. O'Grady 104. S. O'Grady 105. M. O'Grady 106. S. O'Grady 107. M. O'Grady 108. S. O'Grady 109. M. O'Grady 110. S. O'Grady 111. M. O'Grady 112. S. O'Grady 113. M. O'Grady 114. S. O'Grady 115. M. O'Grady 116. S. O'Grady 117. M. O'Grady 118. S. O'Grady 119. M. O'Grady 120. S. O'Grady 121. M. O'Grady 122. S. O'Grady 123. M. O'Grady 124. S. O'Grady 125. M. O'Grady 126. S. O'Grady 127. M. O'Grady 128. S. O'Grady 129. M. O'Grady 130. S. O'Grady 131. M. O'Grady 132. S. O'Grady 133. M. O'Grady 134. S. O'Grady 135. M. O'Grady 136. S. O'Grady 137. M. O'Grady 138. S. O'Grady 139. M. O'Grady 140. S. O'Grady 141. M. O'Grady 142. S. O'Grady 143. M. O'Grady 144. S. O'Grady 145. M. O'Grady 146. S. O'Grady 147. M. O'Grady 148. S. O'Grady 149. M. O'Grady 150. S. O'Grady 151. M. O'Grady 152. S. O'Grady 153. M. O'Grady 154. S. O'Grady 155. M. O'Grady 156. S. O'Grady 157. M. O'Grady 158. S. O'Grady 159. M. O'Grady 160. S. O'Grady 161. M. O'Grady 162. S. O'Grady 163. M. O'Grady 164. S. O'Grady 165. M. O'Grady 166. S. O'Grady 167. M. O'Grady 168. S. O'Grady 169. M. O'Grady 170. S. O'Grady 171. M. O'Grady 172. S. O'Grady 173. M. O'Grady 174. S. O'Grady 175. M. O'Grady 176. S. O'Grady 177. M. O'Grady 178. S. O'Grady 179. M. O'Grady 180. S. O'Grady 181. M. O'Grady 182. S. O'Grady 183. M. O'Grady 184. S. O'Grady 185. M. O'Grady 186. S. O'Grady 187. M. O'Grady 188. S. O'Grady 189. M. O'Grady 190. S. O'Grady 191. M. O'Grady 192. S. O'Grady 193. M. O'Grady 194. S. O'Grady 195. M. O'Grady 196. S. O'Grady 197. M. O'Grady 198. S. O'Grady 199. M. O'Grady 200. S. O'Grady 201. M. O'Grady 202. S. O'Grady 203. M. O'Grady 204. S. O'Grady 205. M. O'Grady 206. S. O'Grady 207. M. O'Grady 208. S. O'Grady 209. M. O'Grady 210. S. O'Grady 211. M. O'Grady 212. S. O'Grady 213. M. O'Grady 214. S. O'Grady 215. M. O'Grady 216. S. O'Grady 217. M. O'Grady 218. S. O'Grady 219. M. O'Grady 220. S. O'Grady 221. M. O'Grady 222. S. O'Grady 223. M. O'Grady 224. S. O'Grady 225. M. O'Grady 226. S. O'Grady 227. M. O'Grady 228. S. O'Grady 229. M. O'Grady 230. S. O'Grady 231. M. O'Grady 232. S. O'Grady 233. M. O'Grady 234. S. O'Grady 235. M. O'Grady 236. S. O'Grady 237. M. O'Grady 238. S. O'Grady 239. M. O'Grady 240. S. O'Grady 241. M. O'Grady 242. S. O'Grady 243. M. O'Grady 244. S. O'Grady 245. M. O'Grady 246. S. O'Grady 247. M. O'Grady 248. S. O'Grady 249. M. O'Grady 250. S. O'Grady 251. M. O'Grady 252. S. O'Grady 253. M. O'Grady 254. S. O'Grady 255. M. O'Grady 256. S. O'Grady 257. M. O'Grady 258. S. O'Grady 259. M. O'Grady 260. S. O'Grady 261. M. O'Grady 262. S. O'Grady 263. M. O'Grady 264. S. O'Grady 265. M. O'Grady 266. S. O'Grady 267. M. O'Grady 268. S. O'Grady 269. M. O'Grady 270. S. O'Grady 271. M. O'Grady 272. S. O'Grady 273. M. O'Grady 274. S. O'Grady 275. M. O'Grady 276. S. O'Grady 277. M. O'Grady 278. S. O'Grady 279. M. O'Grady 280. S. O'Grady 281. M. O'Grady 282. S. O'Grady 283. M. O'Grady 284. S. O'Grady 285. M. O'Grady 286. S. O'Grady 287. M. O'Grady 288. S. O'Grady 289. M. O'Grady 290. S. O'Grady 291. M. O'Grady 292. S. O'Grady 293. M. O'Grady 294. S. O'Grady 295. M. O'Grady 296. S. O'Grady 297. M. O'Grady 298. S. O'Grady 299. M. O'Grady 300. S. O'Grady 301. M. O'Grady 302. S. O'Grady 303. M. O'Grady 304. S. O'Grady 305. M. O'Grady 306. S. O'Grady 307. M. O'Grady 308. S. O'Grady 309. M. O'Grady 310. S. O'Grady 311. M. O'Grady 312. S. O'Grady 313. M. O'Grady 314. S. O'Grady 315. M. O'Grady 316. S. O'Grady 317. M. O'Grady 318. S. O'Grady 319. M. O'Grady 320. S. O'Grady 321. M. O'Grady 322. S. O'Grady 323. M. O'Grady 324. S. O'Grady 325. M. O'Grady 326. S. O'Grady 327. M. O'Grady 328. S. O'Grady 329. M. O'Grady 330. S. O'Grady 331. M. O'Grady 332. S. O'Grady 333. M. O'Grady 334. S. O'Grady 335. M. O'Grady 336. S. O'Grady 337. M. O'Grady 338. S. O'Grady 339. M. O'Grady 340. S. O'Grady 341. M. O'Grady 342. S. O'Grady 343. M. O'Grady 344. S. O'Grady 345. M. O'Grady 346. S. O'Grady 347. M. O'Grady 348. S. O'Grady 349. M. O'Grady 350. S. O'Grady 351. M. O'Grady 352. S. O'Grady 353. M. O'Grady 354. S. O'Grady 355. M. O'Grady 356. S. O'Grady 357. M. O'Grady 358. S. O'Grady 359. M. O'Grady 360. S. O'Grady 361. M. O'Grady 362. S. O'Grady 363. M. O'Grady 364. S. O'Grady 365. M. O'Grady 366. S. O'Grady 367. M. O'Grady 368. S. O'Grady 369. M. O'Grady 370. S. O'Grady 371. M. O'Grady 372. S. O'Grady 373. M. O'Grady 374. S. O'Grady 375. M. O'Grady 376. S. O'Grady 377. M. O'Grady 378. S. O'Grady 379. M. O'Grady 380. S. O'Grady 381. M. O'Grady 382. S. O'Grady 383. M. O'Grady 384. S. O'Grady 385. M. O'Grady 386. S. O'Grady 387. M. O'Grady 388. S. O'Grady 389. M. O'Grady 390. S. O'Grady 391. M. O'Grady 392. S. O'Grady 393. M. O'Grady 394. S. O'Grady 395. M. O'Grady 396. S. O'Grady 397. M. O'Grady 398. S. O'Grady 399. M. O'Grady 400. S. O'Grady 401. M. O'Grady 402. S. O'Grady 403. M. O'Grady 404. S. O'Grady 405. M. O'Grady 406. S. O'Grady 407. M. O'Grady 408. S. O'Grady 409. M. O'Grady 410. S. O'Grady 411. M. O'Grady 412. S. O'Grady 413. M. O'Grady 414. S. O'Grady 415. M. O'Grady 416. S. O'Grady 417. M. O'Grady 418. S. O'Grady 419. M. O'Grady 420. S. O'Grady 421. M. O'Grady 422. S. O'Grady 423. M. O'Grady 424. S. O'Grady 425. M. O'Grady 426. S. O'Grady 427. M. O'Grady 428. S. O'Grady 429. M. O'Grady 430. S. O'Grady 431. M. O'Grady 432. S. O'Grady 433. M. O'Grady 434. S. O'Grady 435. M. O'Grady 436. S. O'Grady 437. M. O'Grady 438. S. O'Grady 439. M. O'Grady 440. S. O'Grady 441. M. O'Grady 442. S. O'Grady 443. M. O'Grady 444. S. O'Grady 445. M. O'Grady 446. S. O'Grady 447. M. O'Grady 448. S. O'Grady 449. M. O'Grady 450. S. O'Grady 451. M. O'Grady 452. S. O'Grady 453. M. O'Grady 454. S. O'Grady 455. M. O'Grady 456. S. O'Grady 457. M. O'Grady 458. S. O'Grady 459. M. O'Grady 460. S. O'Grady 461. M. O'Grady 462. S. O'Grady 463. M. O'Grady 464. S. O'Grady 465. M. O'Grady 466. S. O'Grady 467. M. O'Grady 468. S. O'Grady 469. M. O'Grady 470. S. O'Grady 471. M. O'Grady 472. S. O'Grady 473. M. O'Grady 474. S. O'Grady 475. M. O'Grady 476. S. O'Grady 477. M. O'Grady 478. S. O'Grady 479. M. O'Grady 480. S. O'Grady 481. M. O'Grady 482. S. O'Grady 483. M. O'Grady 484. S. O'Grady 485. M. O'Grady 486. S. O'Grady 487. M. O'Grady 488. S. O'Grady 489. M. O'Grady 490. S. O'Grady 491. M. O'Grady 492. S. O'Grady 493. M. O'Grady 494. S. O'Grady 495. M. O'Grady 496. S. O'Grady 497. M. O'Grady 498. S. O'Grady 499. M. O'Grady 500. S. O'Grady 501. M. O'Grady 502. S. O'Grady 503. M. O'Grady 504. S. O'Grady 505. M. O'Grady 506. S. O'Grady 507. M. O'Grady 508. S. O'Grady 509. M. O'Grady 510. S. O'Grady 511. M. O'Grady 512. S. O'Grady 513. M. O'Grady 514. S. O'Grady 515. M. O'Grady 516. S. O'Grady 517. M. O'Grady 518. S. O'Grady 519. M. O'Grady 520. S. O'Grady 521. M. O'Grady 522. S. O'Grady 523. M. O'Grady 524. S. O'Grady 525. M. O'Grady 526. S. O'Grady 527. M. O'Grady 528. S. O'Grady 529. M. O'Grady 530. S. O'Grady 531. M. O'Grady 532. S. O'Grady 533. M. O'Grady 534. S. O'Grady 535. M. O'Grady 536. S. O'Grady 537. M. O'Grady 538. S. O'Grady 539. M. O'Grady 540. S. O'Grady 541. M. O'Grady 542. S. O'Grady 543. M. O'Grady 544. S. O'Grady 545. M. O'Grady 546. S. O'Grady 547. M. O'Grady 548. S. O'Grady 549. M. O'Grady 550. S. O'Grady 551. M. O'Grady 552. S. O'Grady 553. M. O'Grady 554. S. O'Grady 555. M. O'Grady 556. S. O'Grady 557. M. O'Grady 558. S. O'Grady 559. M. O'Grady 560. S. O'Grady 561. M. O'Grady 562. S. O'Grady 563. M. O'Grady 564. S. O'Grady 565. M. O'Grady 566. S. O'Grady 567. M. O'Grady 568. S. O'Grady 569. M. O'Grady 570. S. O'Grady 571. M. O'Grady 572. S. O'Grady 573. M. O'Grady 574. S. O'Grady 575. M. O'Grady 576. S. O'Grady 577. M. O'Grady 578. S. O'Grady 579. M. O'Grady 580. S. O'Grady 581. M. O'Grady 582. S. O'Grady 583. M. O'Grady 584. S. O'Grady 585. M. O'Grady 586. S. O'Grady 587. M. O'Grady 588. S. O'Grady 589. M. O'Grady 590. S. O'Grady 591. M. O'Grady 592. S. O'Grady 593. M. O'Grady 594. S. O'Grady 595. M. O'Grady 596. S. O'Grady 597. M. O'Grady 598. S. O'Grady 599. M. O'Grady 600. S. O'Grady 601. M. O'Grady 602. S. O'Grady 603. M. O'Grady 604. S. O'Grady 605. M. O'Grady 606. S. O'Grady 607. M. O'Grady 608. S. O'Grady 609. M. O'Grady 610. S. O'Grady 611. M. O'Grady 612. S. O'Grady 613. M. O'Grady 614. S. O'Grady 615. M. O'Grady 616. S. O'Grady 617. M. O'Grady 618. S. O'Grady 619. M. O'Grady 620. S. O'Grady 621. M. O'Grady 622. S. O'Grady 623. M. O'Grady 624. S. O'Grady 625. M. O'Grady 626. S. O'Grady 627. M. O'Grady 628. S. O'Grady 629. M. O'Grady 630. S. O'Grady 631. M. O'Grady 632. S. O'Grady 633. M. O'Grady 634. S. O'Grady 635. M. O'Grady 636. S. O'Grady 637. M. O'Grady 638. S. O'Grady 639. M. O'Grady 640. S. O'Grady 641. M. O'Grady 642. S. O'Grady 643. M. O'Grady 644. S. O'Grady 645. M. O'Grady 646. S. O'Grady 647. M. O'Grady 648. S. O'Grady 649. M. O'Grady 650. S. O'Grady 651. M. O'Grady 652. S. O'Grady 653. M. O'Grady 654. S. O'Grady 655. M. O'Grady 656. S. O'Grady 657. M. O'Grady 658. S. O'Grady 659. M. O'Grady 660. S. O'Grady 661. M. O'Grady 662. S. O'Grady 663. M. O'Grady 664. S. O'Grady 665. M. O'Grady 666. S. O'Grady 667. M. O'Grady 668. S. O'Grady 669. M. O'Grady 670. S. O'Grady 671. M. O'Grady 672. S. O'Grady 673. M. O'Grady 674. S. O'Grady 675. M. O'Grady 676. S. O'Grady 677. M. O'Grady 678. S. O'Grady 679. M. O'Grady 680. S. O'Grady 681. M. O'Grady 682. S. O'Grady 683. M. O'Grady 684. S. O'Grady 685. M. O'Grady 686. S. O'Grady 687. M. O'Grady 688. S. O'Grady 689. M. O'Grady 690. S. O'Grady 691. M. O'Grady 692. S. O'Grady 693. M. O'Grady 694. S. O'Grady 695. M. O'Grady 696. S. O'Grady 697. M. O'Grady 698. S. O'Grady 699. M. O'Grady 700. S. O'Grady 701. M. O'Grady 702. S. O'Grady 703. M. O'Grady 704. S. O'Grady 705. M. O'Grady 706. S. O'Grady 707. M. O'Grady 708. S. O'Grady 709. M. O'Grady 710. S. O'Grady 711. M. O'Grady 712. S. O'Grady 713. M. O'Grady 714. S. O'Grady 715. M. O'Grady 716. S. O'Grady 717. M. O'Grady 718. S. O'Grady 719. M. O'Grady 720. S. O'Grady 721. M. O'Grady 722. S. O'Grady 723. M. O'Grady 724. S. O'Grady 725. M. O'Grady 726. S. O'Grady 727. M. O'Grady 728. S. O'Grady 729. M. O'Grady 730. S. O'Grady 731. M. O'Grady 732. S. O'Grady 733. M. O'Grady 734. S. O'Grady 735. M. O'Grady 736. S. O'Grady 737. M. O'Grady 738. S. O'Grady 739. M. O'Grady 740. S. O'Grady 741. M. O'Grady 742. S. O'Grady 743. M. O'Grady 744. S. O'Grady 745. M. O'Grady 746. S. O'Grady 747. M. O'Grady 748. S. O'Grady 749. M. O'Grady 750. S. O'Grady 751. M. O'Grady 752. S. O'Grady 753. M. O'Grady 754. S. O'Grady 755. M. O'Grady 756. S. O'Grady 757. M. O'Grady 758. S. O'Grady 759. M. O'Grady 760. S. O'Grady 761. M. O'Grady 762. S. O'Grady 763. M. O'Grady 764. S. O'Grady 765. M. O'Grady 766. S. O'Grady 767. M. O'Grady 768. S. O'Grady 769. M. O'Grady 770. S. O'Grady 771. M. O'Grady 772. S. O'Grady 773. M. O'Grady 774. S. O'Grady 775. M. O'Grady 776. S. O'Grady 777. M. O'Grady 778. S. O'Grady 779. M. O'Grady 780. S. O'Grady 781. M. O'Grady 782. S. O'Grady 783. M. O'Grady 784. S. O'Grady 785. M. O'Grady 786. S

FOOTBALL

West heading in direction of Newcastle

BY GEORGE CAULKIN AND RICHARD HOBSON

NEWCASTLE United directors were understood to have persuaded Taribo West of the merits of a permanent transfer to Tyneside last night after agreeing a £4.2 million fee with Internazionale for the Nigeria defender.

West had previously stated his preference for a loan arrangement after falling foul of Mircea Lucescu, the Serie A club's Romanian coach. Having finally contacted West, who is preparing for Nigeria's African Nations Cup qualifying match with Burundi on Saturday, United were confident enough of a positive outcome to reserve a room in a Newcastle hotel for the Lagos-born centre half. A medical team has also been put on standby, although West's international commitments will delay his arrival.

West, who won the UEFA Cup with Internazionale last season, has not started a league match for almost seven weeks, saying that Lucescu has "put me in the shadows". Newcastle were first alerted of his availability last month when Michel Basilevich, his



West available

adviser, travelled to England to talk to interested parties. Ironically, Liverpool's interest in West has cooled only because their manager, Gerard Houllier, is confident of signing Steve Howey, of Newcastle, under freedom of contract this summer.

Middlesbrough's decision to dispense with the services of Marco Branca has met with a querulous response from the Italian centre forward, who claims to know nothing about his supposed retirement as a

result of a serious knee injury. The FA Carling Premiership club issued a statement on Wednesday saying that it had "reluctantly" accepted medical advice that a knee injury sustained by Branca last April had brought a premature end to his career.

Branca, 34, said yesterday: "I don't know why the club is saying this. I'm doing rehabilitation work in Milan, but I'll be up in Middlesbrough in a few weeks to talk to the club." Wolverhampton Wanderers, of the Nationwide League first division, have appealed to the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) to release Robbie Keane from the world youth championships in April. The FAI have so far failed to respond to a request by Wolves to ignore Keane for the under-20 competition in Nigeria.

Steve Bull, the club's record goalscorer, will return to light training next week after initial fears that a knee injury would bring his career to a close. Moussa Saib could be on his way out of White Hart Lane after defying George Graham, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, and flying to join the Algeria squad for their game against Tunisia on Sunday. Graham will contact the Football Association for guidance on dealing with Saib's "disappearing" act after saying: "He has shown a lack of respect to the club and the fans and, without question, he'll be seriously disciplined."

The agent of Marko Viduka has claimed that the Celtic forward is "sick and tired" of the club's hard line over his return to Parkhead and will consider legal action to resolve the ongoing dispute over his £3 million transfer from Croatia Zagreb. Viduka is desperate to resume his playing career after recuperating from the emotional stress that he insisted lay behind his walkout after just one training session in Glasgow.

However, Celtic's continued insistence on him receiving his hefty signing-on fee — believed to be as much as £1.5 million — in instalments while he proves his long-term commitment to the club has left Viduka exasperated.



Hollins, left, and Curtis have revived a club that had been in turmoil for years until they came together six months ago

Reborn Swansea take wing

John Hollins, Swansea City manager, house in Chelsea, jokes that it costs him £4.20 every time he wants to get back into Wales, such is the expense of crossing the Severn Bridge, but that he would be happy to pay a fiver if it meant heading Derby County at home in the FA Cup tomorrow. Either way, this is small money compared with the £370,000 it took to pack Alan Curtis off out of Wales 20 years ago.

Curtis departed Swansea for Leeds United in 1979 as the club's record transfer sale and the League's joint-top scorer from the previous season, but he stayed at Elland Road for only 18 months. Before leaving the Vetch Field, Curtis had helped Swansea from the lower end of the fourth division into the second.

While Curtis was away, Swansea stayed put. Within six months of his return, bought for half the fee that he was sold for after flopping at Leeds, the Swans were in the first division. The following season, managed by John Toshack, they led the league for a while and remained in contention for the championship until April.

A string of defeats towards the end saw Swansea finish in sixth place, but still the

David Powell on the men bringing back the glory days to Vetch Field

club's highest League finish. Now, as the fourth-round tie with Derby approaches, Curtis, in his fourth spell with Swansea — three as a player, now as assistant manager — says that these are the best days at the Vetch since the two-season stay in the top division.

"The hairs on the back of your neck stand up and you get a tingling sensation," Curtis said. "The last time we had that was when the club was in the old first division." Since then, keeping count of the managers has kept busy the fingers of fans who remember using them to tally Curtis's goals [32 in the 1977-78 season].

Swansea have had 12 changes of manager in 15 years, three parting company with the club in an eight-month spell prior to the arrival of Hollins last July. Two incumbents in the past three years, Kevin Cullis and Micki Adams, each survived less than a fortnight. Only 15

months ago, the club was in turmoil and Curtis could barely believe what was happening.

"It was becoming a laughing stock, bordering on farce," Curtis recalled. "When Alan Cork took over, I was doing the youth team and the first team. There was nobody else left. When Cork went last summer, Hollins was installed, unperturbed at Swansea's reputation, glad to be a manager again, ten years after he had last held such a post."

For three years until 1988, Hollins managed Chelsea. Though he still has a home there, to which he returns once a week, he spends most nights at his flat in Swansea. Hollins insists that he had not thought of packing in almost as soon as he had arrived at, after six matches, Swansea were one place off the bottom.

Now, halfway up the table and after eliminating Millwall, Stoke City and West Ham United from the FA

Cup, Hollins is no dying Swan.

"I came here because this was an opportunity for me to use the experience I had from playing, coaching and managing — some good experiences, some bitter ones," Hollins said. "What I have learnt is how a club should be run and how a club should not be run. We have put that into practice, but we have only just started."

"Alan and I have been together for six months. I have not bought, loaned or sold anybody. We are just trying to get our experience into them and make them play. It was a sad place when I arrived, but not now."

Until decamping to Swansea, Hollins had spent all his football life with clubs in London. With Chelsea, he played in two FA Cup finals, the first in 1967, against Tottenham Hotspur, when Curtis was at school in South Wales. "In those days, you were either a Spurs, Manchester United or Chelsea supporter," Curtis recalled, noting that he had gone with Spurs because "I was a Jimmy Greaves man".

Not a Hollins man? Not then. It took Curtis 21 years to come round to the idea, but now they are a team. Swansea are on the rise again. Derby beware.



managed Chelsea. Though he still has a home there, to which he returns once a week, he spends most nights at his flat in Swansea. Hollins insists that he had not thought of packing in almost as soon as he had arrived at, after six matches, Swansea were one place off the bottom.

Lombardo adds to Palace abdications

ATTILIO LOMBARDO, the Crystal Palace midfielder, is expected to complete a move to Lazio today for a fee of about £500,000 (Russell Kempson writes). The former Juventus and Sampdoria player flew to Rome for discussions with Lazio officials yesterday.

Lombardo's move is the latest in a series of departures from Selhurst Park as Mark Goldberg, the Palace chairman, attempts to cut costs at the Nationwide League first division club. Marcus Bent has joined Port Vale for £375,000 and Matt Jansen was bought by Blackburn Rovers for £4.1 million on Monday.

"Attilio served us well," Goldberg said. "We're sorry he is leaving, but it is the same situation as it was with Matt."

If we are not going to be in the Premiership next season, then it was going to be very difficult to keep Attilio."

Goldberg indicated that he was looking to trim further the first-team squad. "We've got 40 players and should really have only 22 or 23," he said. "We've got to provide opportunities for the youngsters and make sure we're running an efficient organisation."

"I'm acting not under crisis management, but purely good business management. I've learnt a lot here and I thought that throwing money at the equation was the right way to go. Now, we might have to take one step backward to move two steps forward."

Lombardo, 33, the former Italy international, joined Palace from Juventus for £1.6 million in August 1997.

RUGBY UNION

England put the case for leniency

BY MARK SOUSTER

ENGLAND will discover next week what penalty, if any, the International Rugby Board (IRB) intends to impose in its latest sparring match with Twickenham. Having been found guilty last week of "conduct prejudicial to the interests of the game", the Rugby Football Union (RFU) met yesterday's deadline by submitting its defence and plea for leniency.

The IRB had taken its action because, it said, the union had reneged on the commitment to support the board in its stance against England's leading clubs, who, in a legal submission to the European Commission in April, challenged its authority and control over certain areas of the game. In essence, the union's lawyers argued yesterday that Twickenham did not have a case to answer and that its behaviour, while perhaps regrettable, had not damaged the board and therefore no fine or other punishment was warranted. The board disciplinary committee has indicated already that it will not suspend England from the World Cup, but the prospect of a heavy fine remains.

The English clubs want to be able to negotiate their own commercial agreements for competitions in which they participate and they maintain that the board's control amounts to restrictive practice. In a separate case last month, the board withheld a £60,000 grant to the union for failing

to prevent the unofficial cross-border Anglo-Welsh friendly matches.

Richmond, to appeal against the dismissal of Robbie Hutton, a flank forward, during the Allied Dunbar Premiership game away to Gloucester. Hutton was sent off in the final minutes of the match for allegedly stamping, but, having studied a video recording, the club says that it will defend Hutton at a disciplinary hearing.

Gloucester Spartans opted yesterday not to appeal against a decision to ban its entire first team after a brawl during a league match against Cinderford. Thirteen players have been suspended for a fortnight, starting on Monday, while two others, Bobby Fowle and Stuart Brazil, were banned for 35 days after being sent off during the game, which was abandoned five minutes before half-time by the referee. Cinderford were exonerated of any blame.

Malcolm Pearce, the millionaire owner of Bristol, agreed yesterday that the protracted nature of merger talks with London Scottish was harming the game, but insisted that the action was necessary to safeguard Bristol's future. Pearce said that without a guarantee of promotion to the top division of whatever structure is in place next season, he has had to take his controversial action.

Ireland's summer tour to Australia has been reduced from six to four matches because the Irish RFU could not guarantee the availability of its strongest side for the full tour.

Three of England's Five Nations Championship matches this season will be controlled by referees from the southern hemisphere. Only their first match, against Scotland, will have a European in charge — David McHugh, of Ireland.

Ed Morrison, the leading English referee, will be in action on the championship's opening weekend, on February 6, when he takes charge of Scotland against Wales at Murrayfield. FIVE NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP REFEREES: Piersie McHugh (Ireland) v France (P Marshall, Auld, Scotland) v Wales (E Morrison, Engl), Feb 26: England v Scotland (D McHugh, Irel), Wales v Ireland (D Young, Aust), Mar 6: Ireland v England (S Watson, NZ), France v Wales (J Fleming, Scot), Mar 28: England v France (C Hawke, NZ), Scotland v Ireland (D Smith, Wales), Apr 10: France v Scotland (C Thomas, Wales), Apr 11: Wales v England (A Watson, Scot).



Morrison: Murrayfield date

Greed supplants dignity in soul of the Five Nations

Evoking an image so redolent of the past merely reinforced the regret for the way things were and how they have so uncomfortably changed. Allan Hossie, Brian Baister and Bill Beaumont stood with pints of warm beer in their hands and declared that the Five Nations Championship, in its traditional form, had not disappeared after all. England were no longer the pariahs of Europe.

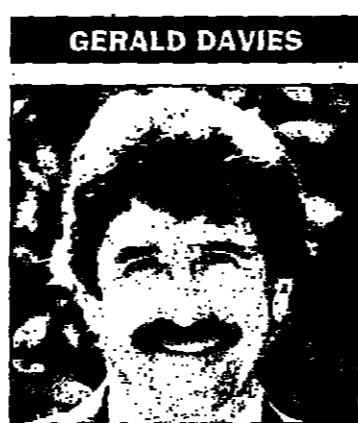
The thin smiles in the photograph of the chairman of the Five Nations Committee (Hossie) with the Rugby Football Union chairman (Baister) and negotiator (Beaumont) seemed to suggest that no problem is so great that it cannot be settled with a pie and a pint at the Drum and Monkey. England were reinstated, with one or two provisos, as full members.

This is the second time that the Five Nations Championship has been put at risk. In July 1996, there was a sinking feeling of disbelief when a similar expulsion took place, which was followed by joy and relief when an agreement was reached and the championship was back on course. The events of this past week have simply been firesome and irritating.

Who are we meant to believe? Did any meetings take place or didn't they? If not, why not? How is it that men who are appointed as administrators cannot arrange times and dates that are mutually convenient for meetings? How is it that, after some kind of protracted discussions, a decision is reached one day, only, after a sudden dash to Glasgow, for it to be overturned 24 hours later? Are not the participating parties bringing the game into disrepute?

As ever, money is at the root of the problem. Chasing the almighty dollar has been compounded by the fact that the rugby authorities, aware of the immense popularity of international rugby, have been unable to put a price on the value of their property, the tournament involving England, France, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. They all knew that the game was valuable to television, but how valuable? Fuelled by panic, greed was in the air in 1996, as it is now.

This was why a Five Nations Committee was instituted, to co-ordinate the efforts of all countries concerned so that they could all benefit. Because their television contract is out



Rugby Union Commentary

of killer with the others. France could not immediately be a party to the negotiations, but had committed themselves firmly to the principle. England believed that, because of their higher percentage share of the potential television audience, they had a claim on the greater share of the money. They decided to pursue their own individual contract for all matches at Twickenham.

They may have had a good case, except that the property for sale was the Five Nations Championship in its entirety, not bits of it. Each country is dependent on the others; there is a mutuality of interest.

The argument goes that the championship cannot do without England. This is true — but the championship cannot exist without the others either. Take out any one country and the tournament is significantly less attractive.

For example, Wales are down on their luck at the moment, but we only need to go back a couple of decades to appreciate what their absence would have meant then. The tournament would have been substantially devalued.

The problem is that so many — from the players, to the administrators at Twickenham — repeat endlessly the axiom that the championship cannot do without England, and believe it so intensely, that they are creating the impression that it is so critical though their presence is to the tournament, they are not. If push came to shove — as it clearly did this week — indispensable certainly not in the existing unstable climate.

What the union in England will also have come to understand is that it could be isolated. In July 1996, it may have thought that it had outgrown the championship and that competition against the southern hemisphere nations would approximate more to its standing in world rugby. The prospect was mooted that, with France, they could fashion an alternative Five Nations Championship to include the three nations of the southern hemisphere. After England's display last summer and the turmoil it is suffering in its relationship with the International Rugby Board, those three countries are no longer so enamoured of the idea.

Yet why, in any case, should a championship that is so unquestionably appealing be put in such jeopardy? The time may indeed come, though it is a long way off, when there is a sufficient number of countries playing rugby at the highest level that some may wish to pursue their independent whims and to determine their own destinies without the Five Nations Championship. Rugby may then need to consider another structure — but that moment has not arrived.

For the time being, it is in rugby's best interests to act collectively in order to broaden the game globally. This will not occur if countries choose to act selfishly.

By then, any sense that decisions may be determined in bar-room conviviality will be long gone. At the moment, with so much acrimony born of past grievances, one can only wish things to be as they once were. At least such hominoid chumminess ensured that common sense and honour prevailed. Then, the game was harmonious and had a deep sense of its own dignity.

‘Take out any one country and the tournament is significantly less attractive’

BOWLS

Players benefit as seeds fall

BY DAVID REYS JONES

THE failure of the top-ranked players in the world indoor singles championship at Porters Leisure Resort in Norfolk has delighted those who have campaigned for making the sports televised events more accessible.

The top 16 players on the World Bowls Tour ranking list were seeded through to the second round, but only six survived their opening matches.

Mervyn King, the No 4 seed, from Norfolk, who was beaten by Alex Marshall, an unseeded Scot, on Sunday, admitted that there is very little to choose between those in the top 16 and the rest.

"We were just lucky to be in the right place at the right time to earn the points that have put us in pole position, but there are lots of good bowlers around and I'm not at all surprised by what's been happening," he said.

Yet there is another factor. This year, because the field has been increased to 48, the

seeds, in their opening games, came up against opponents who had not only already played a match on the portable rink, but whose confidence was boosted by their first-round successes. John Price, the No 5 seed, who was beaten by Mark McMahon on Tuesday, claimed some credit on behalf of the Professional Bowls Association (PBA), of which he is chairman.

"The PBA has been campaigning for more qualifying events and for competition, who are just out of the top 16 to have their chance," he said yesterday. "As a result of the expansion of the field, it's a much stronger event and the eclipse of the seeds was quite predictable."

Even though Steve Rees, the No 7 seed, 38, from Swansea, defeated Robert Newman, the British champion, on Wednesday night, the average age of the competitors left in the tournament remains below 30.

NETBALL

Essex suffer setback

ESSEX Met's hopes of retaining their English Counties League championship have been dealt a blow after they failed in their bid to rearrange their final match against Middlesex, the leaders, which is scheduled for April 10 (Cathy Harris writes).

The champions will be missing Amanda Newton, their Commonwealth Games bronze medal-winning goalkeeper, who will be playing for a New Zealand club in March and April.

Despite being offered several dates by Essex Met, Middlesex, who will be without Helen Lonsdale, another player to

accept an offer to play in New Zealand, have struggled to reach a suitable alternative.

Pat Meadows, the Essex Met coach, said: "Initially, I was a bit peeved, but now I've got used to the idea. We're simply going to have to work our socks off."

Although the All England Netball Association had agreed for two matches between the leading contenders to be rearranged, Derbyshire's match against Bedfordshire will also go ahead as scheduled, despite Derbyshire being without Naomi Siddall and Olivia Murphy, both of whom will be in New Zealand.

OLYMPICS

British official accuses Salt Lake

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

A LEADING British Olympic official claimed yesterday that Salt Lake City should lose its right to stage the 2002 Winter Games, but admitted it was not practical.

Simon Clegg, the chief executive of the British Olympic Association, said that unless there were drastic changes to the bidding process, the Olympic movement would lose any credibility it still retained.

He claimed that members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) behaved in an improper manner during their visits to Great Britain during Manchester's bid for the 1996 and 2000 Games, but a lack of evidence prevented an inquiry from being launched.

His revelations followed more damaging allegations surrounding the Salt Lake City bid, with one member of the bidding team claiming that a suitcase containing \$5,000 (£3,000) was carried to wine and dine members of the IOC.

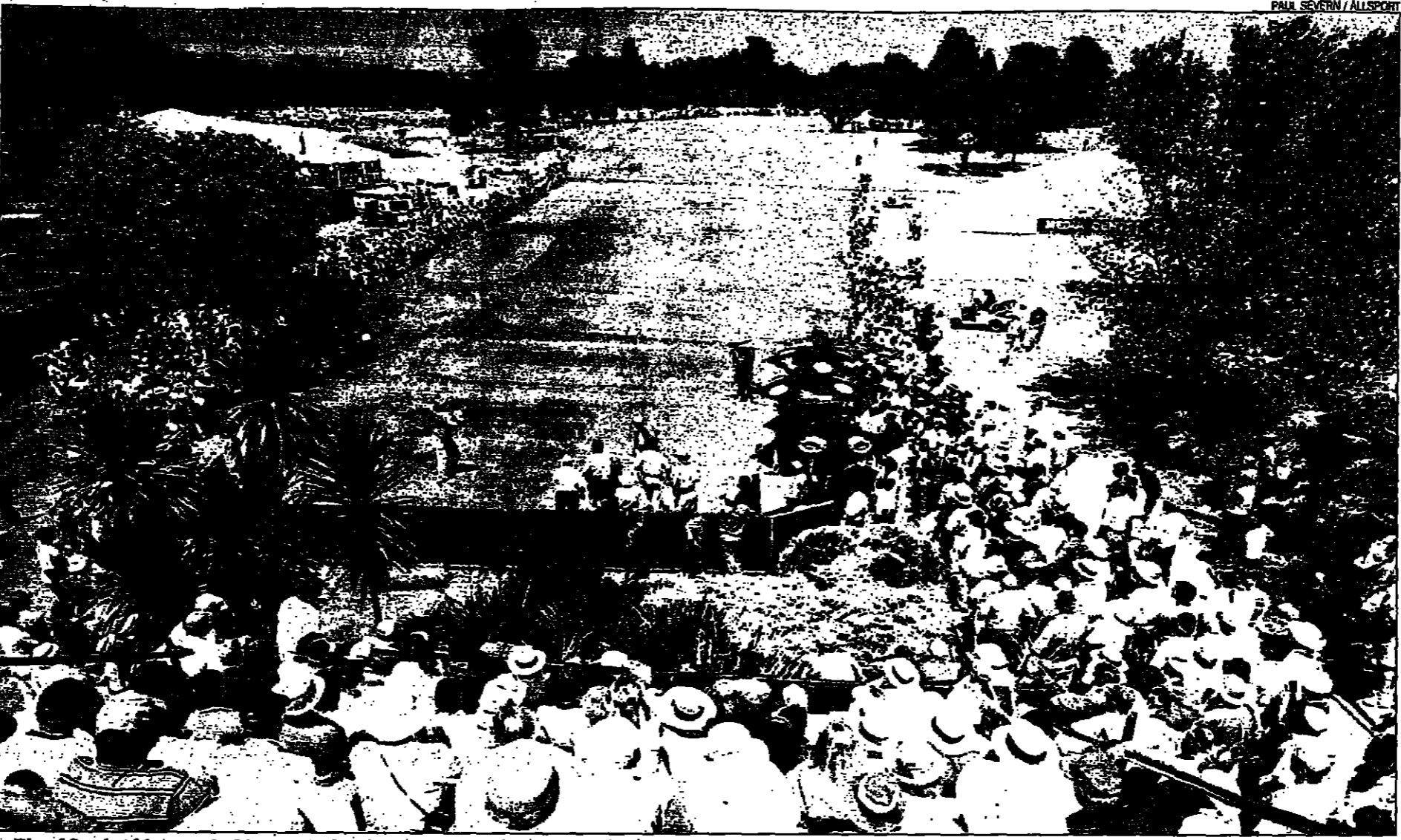
Pirjo Haggman, of Finland, has already resigned her seat on the IOC ahead of the official inquiry into the Salt Lake City bid and a further 12 members are set to follow when the findings are published next week. Clegg said: "In a perfect world, Salt Lake City wouldn't be allowed to host the 2002 Games, but the practicalities mean that finding an alternative at such short notice would be almost impossible."

He said that suspicion had not been pointed at the three recent British bids — Birmingham (1992) and Manchester (1996 and 2000) — but added: "There were certain allegations made about IOC members while they were in Manchester. The complaints were forwarded to the IOC, but were hard to substantiate."

Junichi Yamaguchi, a senior official in the Nagano team that bid successfully for the 1998 Winter Olympics, claimed yesterday that records concerning his bid were destroyed after IOC members asked that they be kept secret. He said \$14 million (£8.5 million) was spent on entertaining 62 IOC officials, but added: "We were concerned that if the documents were made public, it could cause unpleasantness for the IOC."

GOLF: FORMER ENGLISH AMATEUR CHAMPION AMONG LEADERS AFTER FIRST DAY OF SOUTH AFRICAN OPEN

Garbutt makes most of early start



Els, of South Africa, watched by a packed gallery, tees off during his round at Stellenbosch yesterday. He started promisingly, but finished the day four shots behind the leaders.

THERE are days at a golf tournament when the leaders are determined not so much by one player's edge over another as by other factors. The day of the first round of the South African Open was one such. The weather made a big difference. Those who started early played in calm conditions, but those who played later faced a gusty wind and intense heat as the temperature rose to nearly 40C.

Furthermore, in the sharp light that is a feature of this part of the Cape, 20 miles east of Cape Town, it is harder to read the lines on the greens when the sun is directly overhead than when it is lower in the sky. Putting was harder, therefore, for the later starters. Ronnie McCann, who was born in South Africa but left for the United States when he was 13, Ian Garbutt, the former English amateur

champion, who has not had a distinguished career as a professional, and Sven Straver, the German World Cup player, are the leaders after three rounds of 67. All three started their first rounds between 6.30am and 7.20am and were back in the clubhouse before midday. It could be more difficult for them today, when they tee off between 11.30am and noon.

Garbutt, whose best finish in a European tour event was seventh in the Dutch Open last year, went to bed at 9pm on Wednesday, woke seven hours later and was on the first tee at 6.50am. He played steadily, birdieing three of his first four holes before three-putting from 70ft on the 6th. Coming home was harder and he added only two more birdies.

Garbutt finished only 38th in the Alfred Dunhill SA PGA

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN STELLENBOSCH

Championship at Houghton golf club in Johannesburg last Sunday, but he was suffering from a stomach upset there and he seemed to be a different player on this occasion. His putting, in particular, had improved. "It can really blow here," Garbutt said. "We were lucky to have the best of the weather."

Nick Faldo also started early, at 7.10am, and was furious with himself by the time that he had finished because he felt he had failed to capitalise on the good conditions. There is no pleasing some people. Faldo's 70, one under par, was seven strokes better than his opening round in Johannesburg and contained only three bog-

gies. When was the last time he outscored Ernie Els? "It was a piece of cake," Faldo said. "There is nothing going on out there. The greens are holding. It's there for the taking. Faldo is 68 max right now. Ernie Els will make mince-meat of it."

Els set off at 11.50am, just after Faldo had finished. For his first seven holes, he looked as though he might, indeed, do as Faldo had suggested, holding putts of 30ft on the 5th and 25th on the 6th. However, the 8th stopped him in his tracks. He drove into the left rough, took three to reach the green and then missed a six-footer for par. After that, he went off the ball, coming home in 37, one over par, and failed to get his par at the 18th.

Peter Baker was another who experienced a thoroughly frustrating day. "Some days, a 72 is a really great score," Bak-

er, who was playing a couple of groups ahead of Els, said. Again and again, he saved himself with his magical short game. Four times on his home-ward half alone, he rescued his par. He described his round as a battle.

Paul McGinley, who started at 12.20pm, ten minutes ahead of Anthony Wall, went round in 69, which was notable because he was one of very few to score well so late in the day and because he had a hole in one on the 7th. Wall's scores for the 12th, 13th and 14th were 61, 6 — against a par of 5.5.

"It was a different course this afternoon," Els said. "You never know in the Cape. It might rain tomorrow."

That is not very likely. The forecast is for more scorching heat, with temperatures reaching 40C. The day could again belong to those who have an early start.

SCORES FROM STELLENBOSCH

LEADING FIRST-ROUND SCORES (South Africa unless stated): 67: R McCann (US), I Garbutt (Eng), S Straver (Ger), 68: A Cella (Ger), J Kingston (Eng), D Frost, S Pappas, M Moulard (Wales), R Kaplan, H Alberts, J Palmer, A Rossouw, D Faure, P McGinley (Eng), 70: C Kampas, N Faldo (Eng), P Loford (Aus), J Horday, R May (US), S Loney (Aus), S Vaughan, C Whistow, I Garcia (Sp), M Gortan, C Heline (US), 71: E Els, M A Martin (Sp), D Botes, P Sjodan (Swe), S Allan (Aus), R Gonzalez (Arg), P Blake, M McNulty (Zim), W Coetzee, A Pitts (US), S Tilling (Den), R Westlake, J Singh (Ind), P Nyman (Swe), J Bickerton (Eng), M Roe (Eng), G Owen (US), B Pappas, I Hutchings, S Daniels, D Gorman, R Whitaker (US), S Fouchas, H Thul (Ger). Other scores: 72: B Langer (Ger), I Woodman (Wales), I Bjorn (Den), S Hansen (Den), A Coart (Swe), S Broadhurst (Eng), 73: A Wall (Eng), 78: P J Johansson (Swe).

CRICKET: WORLD CHAMPIONS FINALLY OFF THE MARK WITH THRILLING VICTORY IN TRIANGULAR ONE-DAY COMPETITION

Sri Lankans grow weary of debate over Muralitharan

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

AS ENGLAND'S cricketers enjoyed a rare day off yesterday, their opponents in the triangular one-day tournament were trying to patch up problems of their own. The Australians, resting from the shock of Ricky Ponting's exclusion from the side after his involvement in a nightclub brawl, have lost Steve Waugh to a pulled hamstring, while Sri Lanka resent the treatment of Muttiah Muralitharan, their star off-spinner.

Waugh, the captain of the Australia one-day team, carried his injury into the tournament and missed the first three games, when Shane Warne led the side. In Hobart, where Sri Lanka won the latest game by three wickets, to gain their first victory, Waugh again took over the captaincy after Waugh withdrew.

With Ponting in the doghouse and Michael Bevan nursing a groin strain, they have summoned Stuart Law, the Queensland and Essex batsman, and Michael Kaspruz, the team bowler, for the game against England at the Adelaide Oval next Tuesday, Australia Day. Kaspruz

replaces Bradley Young, the off-spinner, who has an ankle injury.

On Saturday Sri Lanka play England. The big question is whether Ross Emerson and Tony McQuillan, two of the umpires who called Muralitharan's bowling action "diabolical" in a recent book — has not banished this difficult subject. The whole of Australia, or at least that part of it which takes an interest in cricket, is talking about it.

Darrell Hair's decision to stand himself down from the umpires' panel for this tournament — and his imminent disrepute charge, brought against him for calling Muralitharan's bowling action "diabolical" in a recent book — has not banished this difficult subject. The whole of Australia, or at least that part of it which takes an interest in cricket, is talking about it.

The whispering has not stopped since the Sri Lankans arrived in this country. Some umpires are believed to side with Hair, so it would be something short of a sensation, though still an extraordinary event, if Muralitharan were called on Saturday. Peter van der Merwe, the match referee, will have to mention his abnormal action in his report at the end of the tournament and the International Cricket Council will once again be presented with evidence requiring some form of judgment.

Muralitharan is thoroughly fed up with the whole business. As soon as he came on to bowl in the first match in Brisbane, spectators called "no ball" and the jeering has not stopped. Arjuna Ranatunga, the captain, feels that his bowler may not want to tour Australia again.

"It's so unfortunate that a brilliant bowler who has taken 200 wickets, every time he goes into the field he has this problem," Ranatunga said. "Ultimately, what will happen is that people like Murali will never tour Australia. The younger generation will never



Jayasuriya and Mahanama celebrate after they had combined to end the innings of Mark Waugh for 65

be able to see him bowling. What if we do the same thing when some brilliant cricketer comes to Colombo — if he was hoisted from the day he started bowling? It's not the right thing for a sportsman. Why is it only happening here? I'm really disappointed with the public this time.

"When we came last time, the public backed us and the media backed us. This time, it

is different. I don't know what it is or where it comes from. Something is wrong somewhere. Murali has played for eight years and only once had a problem. That was here, if someone is having a problem, then the first thing they have to do is come to the captain and the manager. No one has spoken to me about it anywhere. No one has spoken to the manager."

Southgate face trial of strength

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

SOUTHGATE will entertain Hounslow, their traditional rivals, when the National League restarts on Sunday after the winter break. The clubs meet again at the same venue in the sixth round of the English Hockey Association (EHA) Men's Cup on February 28.

Hounslow, third from the bottom in the premier division, face a daunting task, but their opponents, holding third position, will have to draw heavily on reserve strength with Giles, Livesey, Sully and Simons all unfit, although Simons is expected to be on the bench. At centre half, Max Diamond, the Australia international, will be a source of inspiration to the three front-runners, Eiko Roti, Duncan Woods and Danny Kerry.

Canterbury, the league leaders, and Beeston meet for the first time this season at the Polo Farm, where Sean Kerly, the player-manager, and David Mathews will again be out of action. "Beeston are a tenacious team and we are wary of them," Kerly said. He made particular reference to Craig Keegan, the Beeston midfielder player, who has scored 14 goals in ten matches.

Canoe, in second place, are at full strength, with the recovery of Kalbir Takher from injury, against Guildford, who field Mark Hoskin, from Reading, and Richard Arscott, from Hampstead. Their new signings, Victory in a triangular tournament at Havant has boosted their confidence.

Reading play their postponed EHA Cup fifth-round tie tomorrow at home against Loughborough Students, for which Simon Masou, their goalkeeper, is unavailable, but he will join them for the trip to Bournville on Sunday for a league match. Brooklands, at the bottom of the table, need a win away to East Grinstead to have any chance of survival.

Slough set sights on triple goal

By CATHY HARRIS

SLOUGH have spent several weeks tinkering with line-ups and tactics, but the serious stuff begins tomorrow, when the English indoor club champions meet Paris in their opening game of the inaugural Perth world cities championship at the Bell's Sports Centre.

It is the start of a busy month for Slough, who have made no secret of their desire to win a medal in Perth, retain their domestic title at Crystal Palace next week and end the Germans' domination of the European club championship in Glasgow in February.

Andy Halliday, the new Slough coach this season, has enjoyed his association with such a talented group of players. He will also be keeping his fingers crossed that Sue Knight, the first-choice goalkeeper, does not suffer any injuries after Lynette Smith, the reserve goalkeeper, was forced to pull out of the competition for financial reasons.

Facing the prospect of six games in two days, Halliday believes that the event will give his squad an excellent indication of what progress they have made. "It will be a measure of where we are, as well as being a good dress rehearsal for next week," he said. "I'm very happy with the defensive side of our game, but we need to make better use of our possession and try to be more incisive."

England Under-21, representing Manchester in the tournament, are using it to prepare for the European Nations Cup in Prague next week, but with students making up the majority of the side, Pete Nicholson, the coach, has found it difficult to juggle practices with exam schedules. He said: "At least we'll be able to benefit from some good competition and give all the players pitch time without worrying too much about results."

TEAMS: Slough (Hounslow, London, England Under-21, Manchester), Glasgow (Reading, Glasgow, Scotland), France Under-21 (Paris), Canada (Toronto), Australia (Sydney).

Rain puts A tour on hold

ENGLAND A were forced to abandon their scheduled four-day match against Mashonaland and hope instead that the rain eases sufficiently to play two limited-overs matches against the province today and tomorrow.

For the second day running, the players arrived at the Old Hararians ground in the morning only to find that the bowlers' run-ups and parts of the square were too wet to risk playing on. Protective covers had leaked on the first day and efforts to find an alternative venue failed once it had become clear that most other grounds in Harare were suffering similar problems.

FROM THERASY PETROPOULOS IN HARARE

Hopes are high that the one-day matches will go ahead, but there are questions being asked about the suitability of touring here during the rainy season, although few could have predicted the 44in that have fallen since mid-November. The yearly average is about 35in.

Phil Neale, the tour manager, said: "There is a reasonable chance that it will rain here at this time of year. I was not involved with why it was decided to come at this time. There were fingers crossed that it wasn't going to rain,

but everybody is saying that this is exceptional."

However, there was a time when the very idea of an A tour this winter was doubtful. Initially, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) had looked at visiting South Africa with a shorter, final leg in Zimbabwe. With South Africa unable to host the requested tour, Zimbabwe were quick to seize the opportunity.

Short of cricket, the players have not been slow in seeking alternative entertainment. Nevertheless, they will be hoping that the golf, go-karting, Laser Wars and such like will be substituted by cricket today.

India omit opener Sidhu

By RICHARD HOBSON

INDIA will begin the first home series against Pakistan for 12 years with a new opening partnership after dropping Navjot Sidhu and Ajay Jadeja from the side that lost to New Zealand last month. If the omission of Jadeja, the former vice-captain, from the 14-man squad announced yesterday was expected, that of Sidhu was a considerable surprise.

In 51 Test matches stretching back to 1983, Sidhu has scored 3,202 runs at an average of 42.13. A barren series against New Zealand, in which he totalled just 48 runs from four innings, was his first failure for some time. He still averages almost 50 over the past two

years, but, at 35, he may find that his career at the highest level is over as the selectors bring in younger players.

The likelihood is that Nayan Mongia, the wicketkeeper, will move up the order to open with Sadagopan Ramesh, a new cap, in the first of the two-match Test series, which will begin amid high security in Madras next Thursday. Laxmi Ratan Shukla, an all-rounder, could be another to play his first game.

Pakistan arrived in Delhi yesterday as members of Shiv Sena, a militant Hindu organisation, called off plans to dis-

rupt the tour after a meeting with officials of the India Government. It says much for the importance of the weeks ahead that the Pakistan team is being managed by Shahrayar Khan, a former foreign secretary.

Vic Brownett resigned as chairman of Derbyshire yesterday after failing to find a solution to the continuing dispute between Dominic Cork, the captain, who is intent on leaving the County Ground, and Harold Rhodes, a committee member.

INDIA SQUAD: Mohammad Ashrauddin (captain), Sourav Ganguly, Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, VVS Laxman, Mayank Agarwal, Anil Kumble, Javahar Srinath, Venkatesh Prasad, Harbhajan Singh, Sunil Gavaskar, Saikat Banerjee, Mohiuddin Khan, Laxmi Ratan Shukla.

Snippets and snips of carefully cut reality

At her Bristol practice, the Norwegian vet Trude Moser meets Thomas, a canary with an infected toe. She decides to amputate and fesses her surgical snail-clippers. Zolt Over in Taunton, Tracey Briscoe, a snack-stall proprietor, has rejoined the local health club for the fourth time. Will she be able to stick to the regime this time?

Whoosh. On a farm near Carmarthen, there's a cow with a lacerated udder. Keith Leonard must attempt his first blood transfusion. We'll stay with that story for a good 30 seconds before — zap — it's over to Sean in Glasgow, who is just mounting the scales at the slumping club. He's lost two pounds, despite his secret chocolate biscuit binge.

On *Far Files* (BBC1), they separate the tiny item fragments with a fuzzy screen and electronic interference sound-effect. Don't bother to flip channels, this tells

us, we're doing it for you. They don't employ this device on *Vets in Practice* (BBC1), but the morsels are equally bite-size.

Granada's recently leaked pitch for a major new TV current affairs slot proposes to chop the programmes into short, attention-grabbing segments. Apparently this will capture the "zeitgeist", "Zeitgeist", by the way, is German for "having a minute attention span". If Granada hopes to poach viewers from programmes such as *Far Files* or *Vets in Practice*, its *Burning Topics* issue McDippers will have to be very short indeed.

Both programmes are harmless. They offer mildly interesting episodes from the lives of ordinary people. Breaking the stories into teeny pieces and jumbling them up lends a spurious sense of urgency, suggesting that events are occurring simultaneously when they obviously aren't. In the case of mixed veg that is modern factual

television, you hardly notice the boring old turnip-like stories because they are diced up with the bright, dramatic canary ones and the sweet little peas.

Vets in Practice was subtitled *Bonnie and Clyde*. Fortunately the animals in this instalment were not riddled with Tommy-gun bullets, but some of the injuries were gory enough to make a hard-bitten film fan queasy. I began to feel like the squeamish nookkeeper in *The Fast Show*, who can't touch a gate because it has got camel spit on it. If cuddly *Roll Harris's Animal Hospital* makes you go "Aaahh", this programme elicits more of an "Urghh".

The vets themselves are very decorative, but that merely heightens the contrast with their patients. Cute little Clyde, for instance, had been hit by a bus. His tiny feline jaw was a mangled mess, his eyes

REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

bashed to bits and his leg smashed. Pretty blonde Fiona performed what looked like a superb piece of reconstructive surgery, stitching, wiring and pinning his leg with a sort of double-ended lollipop (that's a thousand quid to you, and I'm robbing myself).

Pretty blonde Trude only had to deal with Bonnie's unsavoury canine skin condition, until Thomas arrived. Then she clipped

off the canary's toe, on camera. I am still shuddering.

The tone of the programme is gently upbeat. Upbeat is flavour of the month. But nasty old reality keeps intruding. Over on the farm, pretty, dark-haired Keith had to improvise, collecting cow blood in an insecticide spray pump. Blood transfusions for cows are tricky operations, which carry serious risks. "See it. Do it. Teach it," Keith reflected. He was at stage two. The cow died. Maybe he should leave stage three for now.

But the sad death of the cow was as nothing compared with what *Far Files* held in store. The programme has been following the progress of five unusually overweight people as they struggle to diet. It is not an advice programme, and there is no aim to analyse as in *Horizon's* harrowing *Living on Air* (BBC2), on the effects of eating disorders.

The tone aims to be positive and cheerful, which is not unreasonable, except that gross obesity can be a serious emotional as well as physical problem. Snackbar Tracey and Glaswegian Sean are doing just fine. Tracey comes from a family of caterers, but thinks you make spaghetti bolognese by stirring tomato ketchup into mince. She also feeds her daughter Casey half a packet of biscuits. Milky Ways and crispies for breakfast, an offence to make you think about reintroducing the death penalty.

But Terri Vickery, who is losing weight rapidly, feels that her whole life is changing. The diet is clearly affecting her sense of her own identity in a major way and she looks, frankly, a little unstable. I have no idea what the rest of the series has in store for her, but it looks as if everything could go horribly wrong. And then there is Marylyn, strangely absent from the pre-pub-

licity. This genial electrician had surgery to reduce the size of his stomach. He died six days after the operation. His wife agreed that the material could be used, perhaps as a sort of tribute. At the end of this glib, bitty programme, it wasn't the sort of memorial I would want. Dispatches (Channel 4) went to Kosovo. It has been replaced by an independent team led by a Finnish forensic expert, Professor Helena Ranta, investigating two mass massacres. One was allegedly carried out by Serbs on Albanians, the other vice versa.

The programme was superseded by the discovery of the atrocity at Racak, and the commentary had to be amended at the last minute. It is extremely timely. Professor Ranta's team has been asked to return to investigate Racak, and the programme illustrates the shrapnel of cunning and sheer persistence of the official obstruction it will face.

BBC1
6.00am Business Breakfast (52900)
7.00 Breakfast News (1) (2349)
9.00 Killy (1) (830613)
9.45 The Vanessa Show (1) (584548)
10.05 News: Weather (1) (771377)
11.00 Real Rooms (772154)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (762613)
11.55 News: Weather (1) (192409)
12.00pm Call My Bluff (76358)
12.20 Between Us: Home (83272)
1.00 One O'Clock News (1) (82226)
1.30 Regional News: Weather (8632613)
1.40 Neighbours (1) (8519229)
2.05 Ironside: The chief investigates an alleged suicide, but soon discovers there's more to the case than meets the eye (1) (747803)
2.25 Going for a Song (837035)
3.20 The Weather Show (1) (771206)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (837378)
3.45 Spider (886206) 3.50 Smart on the Road (812071) 4.00 Rugs (925071) 4.30 L & K Friday (1438174) 4.55 Newsnight (1) (858919) 5.10 Blue Peter (8514622)
5.35 Neighbours (1) (852174)
6.00 Six O'Clock News: Weather (1) (551)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (803)
7.00 Celebrity Ready, Steady, Carol: Smilie and Andy Kane attempt to create a meal against the clock using mystery ingredients (1) (2700)
7.30 Top of the Pops: Performances by 911, Another Level, All Seeing I, 3 Colours Red, Juliet Roberts, Ryan Adams and Mel C and Blockstar (1) (777)
8.00 Vets in Practice: Sent garden out all the stops to save a horse with a potentially fatal condition, while Emma is called out to assist an epileptic dog (1) (1648)

8.30 A Question of Sport With guests Tim Harman, Laura Davies, Rio Ferdinand and Colin Jackson (1) (3483)
9.00 One O'Clock News: Regional News: Weather (1) (8919)
9.30 Parkinson: Guests include Caroline Aherne, Prince Naseem Hamed and Gary Barlow (1) (595322)
10.25 Polished (1992) A family's home is invaded by spooks who gain access through the TV set. Supernatural thriller, starring JoBeth Williams, Craig T Nelson and Heather O'Rourke. Directed by Tobe Hooper (1) (878613)
12.10am The Stand-Up Show Comedy series, hosted by Ardal O'Hanlon (592595)
12.40 The Big End (1) (891253)
1.10 The Unexplained: Refurbers (1992) An occult expert teams up with a professor to track down the supernatural killer of four students. Horror sequel, starring David Warner. Directed by John Paul Ouellette (1) (819446)
2.50 Weather (1452897)
2.55 BBC News 24 (82083236)

BBC2
7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Harry James (285731) 7.05 Teletubbies (2747848) 7.30 Secret Squid and Co (919280) 7.55 Short Change (2033922) 8.18 Rewind (841225) 8.20 The Marmite (850709) 8.40 Poley (8942483) 8.50 Johnson and Friends (848667) 9.00 Storyline (767938) 9.10 See You, See Me (8284803) 9.30 Numberline (8057735) 9.45 Come Outside (8045930) 10.00 Teletubbies (89229) 10.20 Megamaths (8303358) 10.50 Look and Read (82122) 11.10 Landmarks (1282822) 11.30 English File (8714) 12.00pm Scene (84700) 12.30 Working Lunch (83254) 1.00 Johnson and Friends (73483358)
1.10 The Antiques Show (1) (82372822)
1.40 The Arts and Crafts Show (85108322)
2.10 Indoor Bowls and Racing from Ascot: Bowls: early county-line action from Great Yarmouth. Racing: Coverage of the 2.40, 3.10 and 3.40 (4519280)
5.00 Tennis: Australian Open The key action from the fifth day (9613)
6.00 The Simpsons (1) (759795)
6.20 The Simpsons (1) (836813)
6.45 Robot Wars (1) (803930)
7.15 Electric Circus The latest entertainment news (1) (14193)
7.30 Country House The family are horrified to learn that an illegal rave has been held on part of the estate (1) (829)
8.00 Countdown from Scottish actor Yvonne Scudamore, how to renovate old borders, while Jojo Nails helps Jan and Rob plant their fruit garden (1) (2390)
8.30 Garden Stories Advice on dealing with the most common problems gardeners face (1) (1025)
9.00 Glimme Glimme Glimme Turn receives a visit from a suicidal horse and Linda finds romance with a sexy motorcycle courier (1) (8201)
9.30 Bang, Bang, It's Reeves and Mortimer: The duo interview model Catherine and crassly kidnap a quartet of celebrities (45) (1) (25938)
10.30 The Young Ones Mike gets hold of an atom bomb (1) (75629)
10.30 Newsnight With Kirsty Wark (1) (431700)

BBC2
11.15 Young Guns Go for It The Smiths. Last in series (1) (185648)
11.45 The Talent Short - film showcase introduced by Mark Lawson (1) (850648)
12.35am Inbetween: World Champion: a film of highlights (7474033)
1.20 Six Days, Six Nights (1994) Premiere. Two sisters' lives become fatally entwined despite their best efforts to keep apart. Thriller, starring Beanie Davis. Directed by Diane Kurys (283033)
2.55 Weather (1452897)
3.00 BBC Learning Zone: GCSE Revision: Geography 1 (70830) 5.00 Close

HTV
5.30am HTV Morning News (80762)
6.00 GMTV (8504938)
9.25 Trisha (1) (378200)
10.30 This Morning (1) (24945919)
12.15pm HTV News (1) (8182087)
12.30 TITN Lunchtime News: Weather (1) (23700)
1.00 WEST: Shortland Street Minnie issues an ultimatum (83174)
1.00 WALESS: What You Were Here? (80174) 1.30 Snooker: Nations Cup Live coverage of the match between England and the Republic of Ireland (1) (55284551)
3.15 TITN News Headlines (1) (2799464)
3.20 HTV News (1) (2796377)
3.25 CTV: Mopop's Shop (2808700) 3.35 Timbuctoo (8985193) 3.40 Animal Stories (8873359) 3.50 Adam's Family Tree (828029) 4.20 Gladiators: Train 2 Win (929284) 4.50 Top Ten of Everything (8975648)
5.10 A Country Practice (5557826)
5.40 TITN Early Evening News: Weather (1) (43198)
6.00 Home and Away Diana makes big plans for Olivia (1) (855484)
6.25 WALESS: Wales Tonight: Weather (1) (532700)
6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (270272)
7.00 WEST: The West Tonight (1) (241)
7.00 Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right (829271) (1) (2416)
7.30 Coronation Street Jack and Vera leave the Rovers (1) (483)
8.00 Airline Cabin crew trainees learn what it's like to be confronted by terrorists (1) (5716)
8.30 Neighbours from Hell (1) (8551)
9.00 Tilly Trotter Part three of the Catherine Cookson drama, starring Carl Morris, Simon Shepherd and Madeline Newton (84) (1) (7651)
10.00 News at Ten: Weather (1) (85483)
10.30 HTV News and Weather (1) (730613)

HTV
10.40 Friday Night All Night With guests Denise Van Outen and the Fast Show duo Paul Whitehouse and Charlie Higson (84022)
11.35 Snooker: Nations Cup Highlights of today's two matches (213716)
12.40am WEST: Private TV the duo visit Bristol (919) (748158)
12.40am HTV: We Can Work It Out (Consumer magazine) (746158)
1.05 The World Is Full of Married Men (1979) Jackie Collins sex romp about an advertising executive's extra-marital escapades. Anthony Franciosa, Gareth Hunt and Georgina Hale star. Directed by Robert Young (823149)
2.40 The Haunted Flat (1) (853358)
3.15 Baywatch (1) (483762)
4.05 Trisha Show earlier (1) (4072174)
5.00 Coronation Street (1) (1) (40830)

HTV
10.40 Denise Van Outen joins Ian Wright for a late-night chat (10.40pm)

HTV
A profile of the Eighties Manchester band the Smiths (11.15pm)

HTV
11.15 Young Guns Go for It The Smiths. Last in series (1) (185648)
11.45 The Talent Short - film showcase introduced by Mark Lawson (1) (850648)
12.35am Inbetween: World Champion: a film of highlights (7474033)
1.20 Six Days, Six Nights (1994) Premiere. Two sisters' lives become fatally entwined despite their best efforts to keep apart. Thriller, starring Beanie Davis. Directed by Diane Kurys (283033)
2.55 Weather (1452897)
3.00 BBC Learning Zone: GCSE Revision: Geography 1 (70830) 5.00 Close

HTV
10.40 Denise Van Outen joins Ian Wright for a late-night chat (10.40pm)

HTV
A profile of the Eighties Manchester band the Smiths (11.15pm)

HTV
11.15 Young Guns Go for It The Smiths. Last in series (1) (185648)
11.45 The Talent Short - film showcase introduced by Mark Lawson (1) (850648)
12.35am Inbetween: World Champion: a film of highlights (7474033)
1.20 Six Days, Six Nights (1994) Premiere. Two sisters' lives become fatally entwined despite their best efforts to keep apart. Thriller, starring Beanie Davis. Directed by Diane Kurys (283033)
2.55 Weather (1452897)
3.00 BBC Learning Zone: GCSE Revision: Geography 1 (70830) 5.00 Close

HTV
10.40 Denise Van Outen joins Ian Wright for a late-night chat (10.40pm)

HTV
A profile of the Eighties Manchester band the Smiths (11.15pm)

BBC2
7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Harry James (285731) 7.05 Teletubbies (2747848) 7.30 Secret Squid and Co (919280) 7.55 Short Change (2033922) 8.18 Rewind (841225) 8.20 The Marmite (850709) 8.40 Poley (8942483) 8.50 Johnson and Friends (848667) 9.00 Storyline (767938) 9.10 See You, See Me (8284803) 9.30 Numberline (8057735) 9.45 Come Outside (8045930) 10.00 Teletubbies (89229) 10.20 Megamaths (8303358) 10.50 Look and Read (82122) 11.10 Landmarks (1282822) 11.30 English File (8714) 12.00pm Scene (84700) 12.30 Working Lunch (83254) 1.00 Johnson and Friends (73483358)
1.10 The Antiques Show (1) (82372822)
1.40 The Arts and Crafts Show (85108322)
2.10 Indoor Bowls and Racing from Ascot: Bowls: early county-line action from Great Yarmouth. Racing: Coverage of the 2.40, 3.10 and 3.40 (4519280)
5.00 Tennis: Australian Open The key action from the fifth day (9613)
6.00 The Simpsons (1) (759795)
6.20 The Simpsons (1) (836813)
6.45 Robot Wars (1) (803930)
7.15 Electric Circus The latest entertainment news (1) (14193)
7.30 Country House The family are horrified to learn that an illegal rave has been held on part of the estate (1) (829)
8.00 Countdown from Scottish actor Yvonne Scudamore, how to renovate old borders, while Jojo Nails helps Jan and Rob plant their fruit garden (1) (2390)
8.30 Garden Stories Advice on dealing with the most common problems gardeners face (1) (1025)
9.00 Glimme Glimme Glimme Turn receives a visit from a suicidal horse and Linda finds romance with a sexy motorcycle courier (1) (8201)
9.30 Bang, Bang, It's Reeves and Mortimer: The duo interview model Catherine and crassly kidnap a quartet of celebrities (45) (1) (25938)
10.30 The Young Ones Mike gets hold of an atom bomb (1) (75629)
10.30 Newsnight With Kirsty Wark (1) (431700)

BBC2
11.15 Young Guns Go for It The Smiths. Last in series (1) (185648)
11.45 The Talent Short - film showcase introduced by Mark Lawson (1) (850648)
12.35am Inbetween: World Champion: a film of highlights (7474033)
1.20 Six Days, Six Nights (1994) Premiere. Two sisters' lives become fatally entwined despite their best efforts to keep apart. Thriller, starring Beanie Davis. Directed by Diane Kurys (283033)
2.55 Weather (1452897)
3.00 BBC Learning Zone: GCSE Revision: Geography 1 (70830) 5.00 Close

BBC2
10.40 Denise Van Outen joins Ian Wright for a late-night chat (10.40pm)

BBC2
A profile of the Eighties Manchester band the Smiths (11.15pm)

BBC2
11.15 Young Guns Go for It The Smiths. Last in series (1) (185648)
11.45 The Talent Short - film showcase introduced by Mark Lawson (1) (850648)
12.35am Inbetween: World Champion: a film of highlights (7474033)
1.20 Six Days, Six Nights (1994) Premiere. Two sisters' lives become fatally entwined despite their best efforts to keep apart. Thriller, starring Beanie Davis. Directed by Diane Kurys (283033)
2.55 Weather (1452897)
3.00 BBC Learning Zone: GCSE Revision: Geography 1 (70830) 5.00 Close

BBC2
10.40 Denise Van Outen joins Ian Wright for a late-night chat (10.40pm)

BBC2
A profile of the Eighties Manchester band the Smiths (11.15pm)

BBC2
11.15 Young Guns Go for It The Smiths. Last in series (1) (185648)
11.45 The Talent Short - film showcase introduced by Mark Lawson (1) (850648)
12.35am Inbetween: World Champion: a film of highlights (7474033)
1.20 Six Days, Six Nights (1994) Premiere. Two sisters' lives become fatally entwined despite their best efforts to keep apart. Thriller, starring Beanie Davis. Directed by Diane Kurys (283033)
2.55 Weather (1452897)
3.00 BBC Learning Zone: GCSE Revision: Geography 1 (70830) 5.00 Close

BBC2
10.40 Denise Van Outen joins Ian Wright for a late-night chat (10.40pm)

BBC2
A profile of the Eighties Manchester band the Smiths (11.15pm)

BBC2
11.15 Young Guns Go for It The Smiths. Last in series (1) (185648)
11.45 The Talent Short - film showcase introduced by Mark Lawson (1) (850648)
12.35am Inbetween: World Champion: a film of highlights (7474033)
1.20 Six Days, Six Nights (1994) Premiere. Two sisters' lives become fatally entwined despite their best efforts to keep apart. Thriller, starring Beanie Davis. Directed by Diane Kurys (283033)
2.55 Weather (1452897)
3.00 BBC Learning Zone: GCSE Revision: Geography 1 (70830) 5.00 Close

BBC2
10.40 Denise Van Outen joins Ian Wright for a late-night chat (10.40pm)

BBC2
A profile of the Eighties Manchester band the Smiths (11.15pm)

BBC2
11.15 Young Guns Go for It The Smiths. Last in series (1) (185648)
11.45 The Talent Short - film showcase introduced by Mark Lawson (1) (850648)
12.35am Inbetween: World Champion: a film of highlights (7474033)
1.20 Six Days, Six Nights (1994) Premiere. Two sisters' lives become fatally entwined despite their best efforts to keep apart. Thriller, starring Beanie Davis. Directed by Diane Kurys (283033)
2.55 Weather (1452897)
3.00 BBC Learning Zone: GCSE Revision: Geography 1 (70830) 5.00 Close

HTV
5.30am HTV Morning News (80762)
6.00 GMTV (8504938)
9.25 Trisha (1) (378200)
10.30 This Morning (1) (24945919)
12.15pm HTV News (1) (8182087)
12.30 TITN Lunchtime News: Weather (1) (23700)
1.00 WEST: Shortland Street Minnie issues an ultimatum (83174)
1.00 WALESS: What You Were Here? (80174) 1.30 Snooker: Nations Cup Live coverage of the match between England and the Republic of Ireland (1) (55284551)
3.15 TITN News Headlines (1) (2799464)
3.20 HTV News (1) (2796377)
3.25 CTV: Mopop's Shop (2808700) 3.35 Timbuctoo (8985193) 3.40 Animal Stories (8873359) 3.50 Adam's Family Tree (828029) 4.20 Gladiators: Train 2 Win (929284) 4.50 Top Ten of Everything (8975648)
5.10 A Country Practice (5557826)
5.40 TITN Early Evening News: Weather (1) (43198)
6.00 Home and Away Diana makes big plans for Olivia (1) (855484)
6.25 WALESS: Wales Tonight: Weather (1) (532700)
6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (270272)
7.00 WEST: The West Tonight (1) (241)
7.00 Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right (829271) (1) (2416)
7.30 Coronation Street Jack and Vera leave the Rovers (1) (483)
8.00 Airline Cabin crew trainees learn what it's like to be confronted by terrorists (1) (5716)
8.30 Neighbours from Hell (1) (8551)
9.00 Tilly Trotter Part three of the Catherine Cookson drama, starring Carl Morris, Simon Shepherd and Madeline Newton (84) (1) (7651)
10.00 News at Ten: Weather (1) (85483)
10.30 HTV News and Weather (1) (730613)

HTV
10.40 Denise Van Outen joins Ian Wright for a late-night chat (10.40pm)

HTV
A profile of the Eighties Manchester band the Smiths (11.15pm)

HTV
11.15 Young Guns Go for It The Smiths. Last in series (1) (185648)
11.45 The Talent Short - film showcase introduced by Mark Lawson (1) (850648)
12.35am Inbetween: World Champion: a film of highlights (7474033)
1.20 Six Days, Six Nights (1994) Premiere. Two sisters' lives become fatally entwined despite their best efforts to keep apart. Thriller, starring Beanie Davis. Directed by Diane Kurys (283033)
2.55 Weather (1452897)
3.00 BBC Learning Zone: GCSE Revision: Geography 1 (70830) 5.00 Close

HTV
10.40 Denise Van Outen joins Ian Wright for a late-night chat (10.40pm)

HTV
A profile of the Eighties Manchester band the Smiths (11.15pm)

HTV
11.15 Young Guns Go for It The Smiths. Last in series (1) (185648)
11.45 The Talent Short - film showcase introduced by Mark Lawson (1) (850648)
12.35am Inbetween: World Champion: a film of highlights (7474033)
1.20 Six Days, Six Nights (1994) Premiere. Two sisters' lives become fatally entwined despite their best efforts to keep apart. Thriller, starring Beanie Davis. Directed by Diane Kurys (283033)
2.55 Weather (1452897)
3.00 BBC Learning Zone: GCSE Revision: Geography 1 (70830) 5.00 Close

HTV
10.40 Denise Van Outen joins Ian Wright for a late-night chat (10.40pm)

HTV
A profile of the Eighties Manchester band the Smiths (11.15pm)

HTV
11.15 Young Guns Go for It The Smiths. Last in series (1) (185648)
11.45 The Talent Short - film showcase introduced by Mark Lawson (1) (850648)
12.35am Inbetween: World Champion: a film of highlights (7474033)
1.20 Six Days, Six Nights (1994) Premiere. Two sisters' lives become fatally entwined despite their best efforts to keep apart. Thriller, starring Beanie Davis. Directed by Diane Kurys (283033)
2.55 Weather (1452897)
3.00 BBC Learning Zone: GCSE Revision: Geography 1 (70830) 5.00 Close

HTV
10.40 Denise Van Outen joins Ian Wright for a late-night chat (10.40pm)

HTV
A profile of the Eighties Manchester band the Smiths (11.15pm)

HTV
11.15 Young Guns Go for It The Smiths. Last in series (1) (185648)
11.45 The Talent Short - film showcase introduced by Mark Lawson (1) (850648)
12.35am Inbetween: World Champion: a film of highlights (7474033)
1.20 Six Days, Six Nights (1994) Premiere. Two sisters' lives become fatally entwined despite their best efforts to keep apart. Thriller, starring Beanie Davis. Directed by Diane Kurys (283033)
2.55 Weather (1452897)
3.00 BBC Learning Zone: GCSE Revision: Geography 1 (70830) 5.00 Close

HTV
10.40 Denise Van Outen joins Ian Wright for a late-night chat (10.40pm)

HTV
5.30am HTV Morning News (80762)
6.00 GMTV (8504938)
9.25 Trisha (1) (378200)
10.30 This Morning (1) (24945919)
12.15pm HTV News (1) (8182087)
12.30 TITN Lunchtime News: Weather (1) (23700)
1.00 WEST: Shortland Street Minnie issues an ultimatum (83174)
1.00 WALESS: What You Were Here? (80174) 1.30 Snooker: Nations Cup Live coverage of the match between England and the Republic of Ireland (1) (55284551)
3.15 TITN News Headlines (1) (2799464)
3.20 HTV News (1) (2796377)
3.25 CTV: Mopop's Shop (2808700) 3.35 Timbuctoo (8985193) 3.40 Animal Stories (8873359) 3.50 Adam's Family Tree (828029) 4.20 Gladiators: Train 2 Win (929284) 4.50 Top Ten of Everything (8975648)
5.10 A Country Practice (5557826)
5.40 TITN Early Evening News: Weather (1) (43198)
6.00 Home and Away Diana makes big plans for Olivia (1) (855484)
6.25 WALESS: Wales Tonight: Weather (1) (532700)
6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (270272)
7.00 WEST: The West Tonight (1) (241)
7.00 Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right (829271) (1) (2416)
7.30 Coronation Street Jack and Vera leave the Rovers (1) (483)
8.00 Airline Cabin crew trainees learn what it's like to be confronted by terrorists (1) (5716)
8.30 Neighbours from Hell (1) (8551)
9.00 Tilly Trotter Part three of the Catherine Cookson drama, starring Carl Morris, Simon Shepherd and Madeline Newton (84) (1) (7651)
10.00 News at Ten: Weather (1) (85483)
10.30 HTV News and Weather (1) (730613)

HTV
10.40 Denise Van Outen joins Ian Wright for a late-night chat (10.40pm)

HTV
A profile of the Eighties Manchester band the Smiths (11.15pm)

HTV
11.15 Young Guns Go for It The Smiths. Last in series (1) (185648)
11.45 The Talent Short - film showcase introduced by Mark Lawson (1) (850648)
12.35am Inbetween: World Champion: a film of highlights (7474033)
1.20 Six Days, Six Nights (1994) Premiere. Two sisters' lives become fatally entwined despite their best efforts to keep apart. Thriller, starring Beanie Davis. Directed by Diane Kurys (283033)
2.55 Weather (1452897)
3.00 BBC Learning Zone: GCSE Revision: Geography 1 (70830) 5.00 Close

HTV
10.40 Denise Van Outen joins Ian Wright for a late-night chat (10.40pm)

HTV
A profile of the Eighties Manchester band the Smiths (11.15pm)

HTV
11.15 Young Guns Go for It The Smiths. Last in series (1) (185648)
11.45 The Talent Short - film showcase introduced by Mark Lawson (1) (850648)
12.35am Inbetween: World Champion: a film of highlights (7474033)
1.20 Six Days, Six Nights (1994) Premiere. Two sisters' lives become fatally entwined despite their best efforts to keep apart. Thriller, starring Beanie Davis. Directed by Diane Kurys (283033)
2.55 Weather (1452897)
3.00 BBC Learning Zone: GCSE Revision: Geography 1 (70830) 5.00 Close



ATHLETICS 43

Running out of Africa towards a place in the England team

Hoddle happy with rising rate of interest

By Matt Dickinson

A NEW year and a new sponsor for the England team, but will 1999 offer a bright new start for Glenn Hoddle? The Nationwide Building Society will certainly hope so after staking £15 million on the fate of the England coach and the international team over the next four years.

Much as they talked earnestly about supporting the grass roots of the game yesterday, the building society's marketing men know that it is to the fluctuating fortunes of Hoddle and his team that they have tied their money and, more significantly, their reputation.

Still, they must be brave gambling men at heart, because they have ignored the recent scandals at the Football Association, which cost Graham Kelly and Keith Wiseman their jobs, England's recent European championship qualifying results and Hoddle's uneasy relationship with the media to stake their money on long-term success.

Those in the commercial department at Lancaster Gate can pat themselves on the back for securing almost four times the amount that Green Flag had paid for the same sponsorship privileges, but the new deal also poses one question. If this England team is valued at £15 million over four years, just how much more would a truly successful one be worth?

Perhaps Hoddle will find out in years to come, but first he must face five months that could be defining ones in his reign as England coach. The jury is still out on his credentials as he enters the last 18 months of his contract.

With just one victory from England's first three qualifying matches — and that against Luxembourg — games at home to Poland in March and Sweden in June, followed by Bulgaria away will be critical.

Hoddle announced yesterday that a match had also

been arranged in Hungary for April 28, but first will be France at Wembley on February 10, when a good result will be essential if Hoddle is to build on the positive vibes that were produced by a victory over the Czech Republic in England's last match.

The game against France is almost sold out and Hoddle believes that the rush for tickets is evidence of continued support for his methods from the country, rather than just a desire to see the world champions. "I am not sure there has been any dip in public



Hoddle: positive

confidence," he said yesterday, "and I think a sell-out shows that."

"We are delighted to be playing France and so is the country. That will be a bell of a game with a real edge to it, because the result will be important as well as the performance. A good result then will give us a major lift, confidence-wise. They don't come any bigger than the world champions, so it couldn't be better."

It is qualification for the European championship that remains the target, though, and England's campaign has got off to a highly unconvincing start. "Two wins at Wembley

in the next two qualifiers would put a different complexion on the group," the England coach said yesterday. "It is not really a fresh start for us. That is the wrong attitude. We are bang in the middle of the season and the qualifiers and we are focused on what is ahead."

The Nationwide must be as confident as Hoddle, because its sponsorship deal is not dependent on England's success in qualifying for the European championship. In paying so much money, however, it is only reasonable that it might expect the England team's image to improve. It will hope the talk at Bisham Abbey press conferences is of football rather than World Cup diaries and faith healers.

The days of taking the money and running are long gone," Phil Carling, the FA's commercial director, said. "The image of the team and players is very, very important. The sponsors are sharing a bit of the cloak with the national team and we think they are buying into passion, excellence, professionalism and honesty."

The players will not be any richer for the deal. The FA's contribution to the players' pool was settled, after some wrangling, before the World Cup and they will not be receiving any additional cash for commercial appearances.

The FA was not the only organisation to benefit yesterday. The Football League's sponsorship deal with the Nationwide, which was due to expire in the summer, has been extended for another two years with a significant increase, to more than £4 million per year.

"Attendances have been rising every year that we have been involved with the Nationwide," Richard Scudamore, the League chief executive, said, "and they are up 4 per cent already this time. We will be building on that with them."

The Football Conference will also be sponsored by the Nationwide for the next two years. "We are supporting the game of football as a whole," Brian Davis, the chief executive, said. But it is the fortunes of the England team that matter most.

West Ham United are expected to spend the first of the riches from the sale of John Harrison next week when Maro-Vivien Foe arrives at Upton Park. The Cameroon midfielder is due in London on Monday for a medical and is expected to conclude a £4 million move. The 23-year-old was close to signing for Manchester United from Lens last season, but the deal was called off when he broke his leg. United have since made three significant signings and there was no indication yesterday that they would try to resurrect the transfer.

West heads north, page 44

SPORT

FRIDAY JANUARY 22 1999

SNOOKER 46

Taking it to the maximum — and then throwing it all away



RUSSIAN STARLET SUFFERS FROM DOUBLE VISION ON PAINFUL PATH TO THIRD ROUND



Double trouble: Kournikova tries to keep her cool, above, as the frustrations of her repeated double faults begin to take hold, below, before finally claiming victory in the first set



DAVID GRAY

Faulty powers: Kournikova tries to get it right this time

Kournikova rues loss of normal service

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT IN MELBOURNE

SHE may look a million dollars, but you wouldn't give her a penny for her service.

The obsession with Anna Kournikova may have reached new heights at the Australian Open, the men of Melbourne melting at the feet of the Russian ice maiden, but one aspect of her play has plunged to near-freeze.

For someone so clearly aware of the importance of shape in the spicy world of modern women's tennis, she is showing an alarming disdain for the small rectangle on the court into which her service should be dropping.

In her second-round match yesterday, the 18-year-old served up 31 double faults against Miho Saeki, of Japan, but somehow scrambled to victory 1-6, 6-4, 10-8. Added to the 26 that she produced in the first round, it took her aggre-

gate for the tournament to 57. Two matches in Sydney last week yielded 34 doubles and her tally for her past seven matches now stands at 147.

"It has been happening for a while, so I am kind of used to it," she said. "I'm really frustrated with it, just like everybody who is watching. In practice, I feel fine, I serve normal and there's no sign of double faults — it's just when I come to the line, when I play, there's something happening."

Kournikova should beware. A gaggle of teeny talent is clamouring for her crown, as witnessed yesterday by the arrival of another Soviet starlet, Elena Dimentieva. Seventeen, leggy and blonde, with elongated fingernails painted metallic silver, she ultimately succumbed to that gnarled veteran, Martina Hingis.

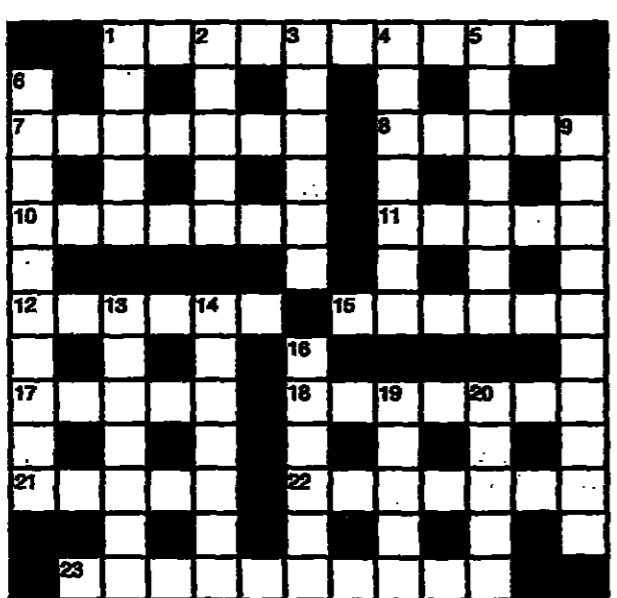
The Swiss miss visibly

frowned upon the gallery's allegiance to the unknown Dimentieva, but she will be in for more of the same — and then some — when she faces Jelena Dokic, the 15-year-old local heroine, tomorrow.

Hingis has grown up to crave her fame. She describes herself as one of the game's Spice Girls, often treating herself to extravagant diamonds as reward for her performance. In an effort to further brighten her profile, she has enlisted an established crowd-puller as her doubles partner here. However, in choosing Kournikova, Hingis may already be dwelling on the past.

Rusedski beaten, page 46

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1621

ACROSS

- 1 Is almost late (4,2,4)
- 7 Towards centre (7)
- 8 Coherent-light beam (5)
- 10 Shared transport arrangement (3,4)
- 11 One acting for another (5)
- 12 (At one's) bidding (6)
- 15 Of the teeth (6)
- 17 Metal mixture (5)
- 18 Set of targets, victims (3,4)
- 21 Russian whip (5)
- 22 Redwood tree (7)
- 23 Impudence (10)

DOWN

- 1 Shrink in fear (5)
- 2 Trunk (of body) (5)
- 3 Contemptuous remark (6)
- 4 Greenery (7)
- 5 In earliest development (7)
- 6 Totally dark (5-5)
- 9 Old, shabby vehicle (10)
- 13 Delay starting: keep at bay (4,3)
- 14 (US) unethical eg lawyer (7)
- 16 Selected (6)
- 19 Woman's small hat (5)
- 20 Tusk material (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1620

- ACROSS: 1 Villa 4 Curious 8 Level best 9 Bye 10 Tube
11 Teatotal 13 Prefer 14 Wolsey 17 Repriser 19 Moss
22 Née 23 Conducive 24 Respect 25 Tight
DOWN: 1 Valet 2 Lovable 3 Axle 4 Clever 5 Rotation
6 Orbit 7 Shelley 12 Mediocre 13 Partner 15 Snoring
16 Magnet 18 Press 20 Scent 21 Curt

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE:
The Times Two Crosswords (Book 1-22) The Times Crosswords (Book 23-24) The Times Junior Crosswords (Book 25-26) The Times Crosswords for Kids (Book 27-28) The Times Crosswords for Adults (Book 29-30) The Times Crosswords for Children (Book 31-32) The Times Crosswords for Young Adults (Book 33-34) The Times Crosswords for Seniors (Book 35-36) The Times Crosswords for Families (Book 37-38) The Times Crosswords for Schools (Book 39-40) The Times Crosswords for Clubs (Book 41-42) The Times Crosswords for Competitions (Book 43-44) The Times Crosswords for Events (Book 45-46) The Times Crosswords for Festivals (Book 47-48) The Times Crosswords for Holidays (Book 49-50) The Times Crosswords for Seasons (Book 51-52) The Times Crosswords for Years (Book 53-54) The Times Crosswords for Decades (Book 55-56) The Times Crosswords for Centuries (Book 57-58) The Times Crosswords for Millennia (Book 59-60) The Times Crosswords for Eternity (Book 61-62) The Times Crosswords for Infinity (Book 63-64) The Times Crosswords for Forever (Book 65-66) The Times Crosswords for Always (Book 67-68) The Times Crosswords for Never (Book 69-70) The Times Crosswords for Sometimes (Book 71-72) The Times Crosswords for Occasionally (Book 73-74) The Times Crosswords for Rarely (Book 75-76) The Times Crosswords for Seldom (Book 77-78) The Times Crosswords for Often (Book 79-80) The Times Crosswords for Frequently (Book 81-82) The Times Crosswords for Regularly (Book 83-84) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 85-86) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 87-88) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 89-90) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 91-92) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 93-94) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 95-96) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 97-98) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 99-100) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 101-102) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 103-104) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 105-106) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 107-108) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 109-110) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 111-112) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 113-114) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 115-116) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 117-118) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 119-120) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 121-122) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 123-124) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 125-126) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 127-128) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 129-130) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 131-132) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 133-134) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 135-136) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 137-138) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 139-140) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 141-142) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 143-144) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 145-146) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 147-148) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 149-150) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 151-152) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 153-154) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 155-156) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 157-158) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 159-160) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 161-162) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 163-164) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 165-166) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 167-168) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 169-170) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 171-172) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 173-174) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 175-176) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 177-178) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 179-180) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 181-182) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 183-184) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 185-186) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 187-188) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 189-190) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 191-192) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 193-194) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 195-196) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 197-198) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 199-200) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 201-202) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 203-204) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 205-206) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 207-208) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 209-210) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 211-212) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 213-214) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 215-216) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 217-218) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 219-220) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 221-222) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 223-224) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 225-226) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 227-228) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 229-230) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 231-232) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 233-234) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 235-236) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 237-238) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 239-240) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 241-242) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 243-244) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 245-246) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 247-248) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 249-250) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 251-252) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 253-254) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 255-256) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 257-258) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 259-260) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 261-262) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 263-264) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 265-266) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 267-268) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 269-270) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 271-272) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 273-274) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 275-276) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 277-278) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 279-280) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 281-282) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 283-284) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 285-286) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 287-288) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 289-290) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 291-292) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 293-294) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 295-296) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 297-298) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 299-300) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 301-302) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 303-304) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 305-306) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 307-308) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 309-310) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 311-312) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 313-314) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 315-316) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 317-318) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 319-320) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 321-322) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 323-324) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 325-326) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 327-328) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 329-330) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 331-332) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 333-334) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 335-336) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 337-338) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 339-340) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 341-342) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 343-344) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 345-346) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 347-348) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 349-350) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 351-352) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 353-354) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 355-356) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 357-358) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 359-360) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 361-362) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 363-364) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 365-366) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 367-368) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 369-370) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 371-372) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 373-374) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 375-376) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 377-378) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 379-380) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 381-382) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 383-384) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 385-386) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 387-388) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 389-390) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 391-392) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 393-394) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 395-396) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 397-398) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 399-400) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 401-402) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 403-404) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 405-406) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 407-408) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 409-410) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 411-412) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 413-414) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 415-416) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 417-418) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 419-420) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 421-422) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 423-424) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 425-426) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 427-428) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 429-430) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 431-432) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 433-434) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 435-436) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 437-438) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 439-440) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 441-442) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 443-444) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 445-446) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 447-448) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 449-450) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 451-452) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 453-454) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 455-456) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 457-458) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 459-460) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 461-462) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 463-464) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 465-466) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 467-468) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 469-470) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 471-472) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 473-474) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 475-476) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 477-478) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 479-480) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 481-482) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 483-484) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 485-486) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 487-488) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 489-490) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 491-492) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 493-494) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 495-496) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 497-498) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 499-500) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 501-502) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 503-504) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 505-506) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 507-508) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 509-510) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 511-512) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 513-514) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 515-516) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 517-518) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 519-520) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 521-522) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 523-524) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 525-526) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 527-528) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 529-530) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 531-532) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 533-534) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 535-536) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 537-538) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 539-540) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 541-542) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 543-544) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 545-546) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 547-548) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 549-550) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 551-552) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 553-554) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 555-556) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 557-558) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 559-560) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 561-562) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 563-564) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 565-566) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 567-568) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 569-570) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 571-572) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 573-574) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 575-576) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 577-578) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 579-580) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 581-582) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 583-584) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 585-586) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 587-588) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 589-590) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 591-592) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 593-594) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 595-596) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 597-598) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 599-600) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 601-602) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 603-604) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 605-606) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 607-608) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 609-610) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 611-612) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 613-614) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 615-616) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 617-618) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 619-620) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 621-622) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 623-624) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 625-626) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 627-628) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 629-630) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 631-632) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 633-634) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 635-636) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 637-638) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 639-640) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 641-642) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 643-644) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 645-646) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 647-648) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 649-650) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 651-652) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 653-654) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 655-656) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 657-658) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 659-660) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 661-662) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 663-664) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 665-666) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 667-668) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 669-670) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 671-672) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 673-674) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 675-676) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 677-678) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 679-680) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 681-682) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 683-684) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 685-686) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 687-688) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 689-690) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 691-692) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 693-694) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 695-696) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 697-698) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 699-700) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 701-702) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 703-704) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 705-706) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 707-708) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 709-710) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 711-712) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 713-714) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 715-716) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 717-718) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 719-720) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 721-722) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 723-724) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 725-726) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 727-728) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 729-730) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 731-732) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 733-734) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 735-736) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 737-738) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 739-740) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 741-742) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 743-744) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 745-746) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 747-748) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 749-750) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 751-752) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 753-754) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 755-756) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 757-758) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 759-760) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 761-762) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 763-764) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 765-766) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 767-768) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 769-770) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 771-772) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 773-774) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 775-776) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 777-778) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 779-780) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 781-782) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 783-784) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 785-786) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 787-788) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 789-790) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 791-792) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 793-794) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 795-796) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 797-798) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 799-800) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 801-802) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 803-804) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 805-806) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 807-808) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 809-810) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 811-812) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 813-814) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 815-816) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 817-818) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 819-820) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 821-822) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 823-824) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 825-826) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 827-828) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 829-830) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 831-832) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 833-834) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 835-836) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 837-838) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 839-840) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 841-842) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 843-844) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 845-846) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 847-848) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 849-850) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 851-852) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 853-854) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 855-856) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 857-858) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 859-860) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 861-862) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 863-864) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 865-866) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 867-868) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 869-870) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 871-872) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 873-874) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 875-876) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 877-878) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 879-880) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 881-882) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 883-884) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 885-886) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 887-888) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 889-890) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 891-892) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 893-894) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 895-896) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 897-898) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 899-900) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 901-902) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 903-904) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 905-906) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 907-908) The Times Crosswords for Usually (Book 909-910) The Times Crosswords for Commonly (Book 911-912) The Times Crosswords for Generally (Book 913-914) The Times Crosswords for Typically (Book 915